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SHOT OUT OF THE SADDLE

Dear Huskers:

I am writing in response to the Dallas Cowboys and Jimmy Johnson's first game in the National Football League. I am very happy he got his nose dug in the dirt by the New Orleans Saints. I simply cannot hide my displeasure over the years with the way he ran his Miami team. They were cannons running loose on the deck of an ethically wounded ship. I think it is a shame that pro-

grams like that go on to win and become role models for young people.

I look back on Broderick Thomas, and he was a pretty wild guy in some ways, but I now see that he was really a gentleman and a scholar compared to the wretches in Miami. I'm not talking sour grapes. They beat us fair and square. But I personally put more stock in how you play the game than whether or not you win.

Daniel Smitherman

Scottsbluff, Neb.

DEAR JOHNNY

Dear Huskers:

Since moving to the East Coast four years ago, I've found it hard to get information on the Huskers. For this reason, I eagerly look forward to each terrific issue of *Huskers Illustrated*.

In the Confidentially section of your 1989 College Football Yearbook, you mention a tight end by the name of Johnny Mitchell. I didn't see him profiled in the special recruiting issue, and I was hoping you could fill me in on the details.

Thanks for your assistance and also the excellent job you're doing.

Gregg Kroese
Sterling, Va.

Dear Huskers:

I enjoy your magazine and I look forward to receiving each issue. I've enjoyed the Huskers now for 25 of my 35 years.

Each year you make it a very important issue to let us, the readers, know about the recruits that have been landed by NU and each player's background. I enjoy reading this very much. I also enjoy reading about some of your follow-up stories on how certain players are progressing. You even let us know when certain players have been hurt and can no longer play football for the Big Red.

But I do have one suggestion. I think you should make it a routine each year to show a complete follow-up of each recruiting class for the last two years. As readers, I think it's frustrating for most of us to hear about potential superstars, and then after one or two years nothing is heard of them at all.

I understand that maybe sometimes other teams might try to use such a list in recruiting against Nebraska. This is baloney. There is nothing wrong with telling the truth. And the truth is best in sports, business or whatever walk of life. Not everyone can be a success story. By not telling the truth about certain players leaving NU, a false picture is painted that every player coming to Nebraska is going to make it big.

It doesn't happen that way at Nebraska or at any other university. It doesn't happen that way in life. A player is not

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a failure if he doesn't make it at Nebraska. Not every situation works for every player. Case in point: Troy Aikman. If Troy had stayed at Oklahoma, would he have become the passing star he was at UCLA? I think not.

In your 1989 College Football Yearbook, tight end Monte Kratzstein mentions two tight end recruits, Billy Wade and Johnny Mitchell. In your recruiting issue you make no mention of Mitchell. Could you tell us a little about him?

Dale Swirczek
Omaha, Neb.

Gregg and Dale: Mitchell is in Lincoln but is not eligible because of Proposition 48. Billy Wade is being redshirted. Also, the yearly recap is a good idea.

MAN OF THE YEAR

Dear Huskers:

Keep up the good work on your excellent magazine. I am really looking forward to the Huskers going to the Orange Bowl this year and beating the brains out of Notre Dame for the national championship, and then *Time* will name Osborne its Man of the Year.

I think Ken Clark is the best running back that Nebraska has ever had, even better than Mike Rozier. I don't think Mike Rozier has done as well in the NFL as he should have. But I hope Ken Clark wins the Heisman Trophy and then is the No. 1 draft pick.

Pete Singleton
Burlington, Kan.

MANY HAPPY RETURNS

Dear Huskers:

I thought your story in the summer about the greatest Huskers of all-time was a very interesting and thought-provoking article. However, I think there is also room on the Nebraska all-time team for specialists, specifically punt returners and kickers.

Throughout the years, special teams have been very important to the success of Nebraska Cornhusker football, and I personally feel there is no team in the country that puts as much emphasis on special teams as Nebraska. Of course, Johnny Rodgers would dominate the thinking of most people when it comes to picking a return specialist, but there have been many more who deserve con-

sideration: Irving Fryar, Rod Smith (who led the nation in 1986) and Pat Fischer on kickoff returns. Dana Brinson was also prolific in both punt and kickoff returns.

I am quite tickled about the 100-year anniversary of Nebraska football because there is so much to remember and enjoy. Thanks for your outstanding

coverage and pass on my best wishes to the team.

Gene Siegel
Roswell, N.M.

We want to hear your comments and answer your questions. Address them to "Letters," P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, NE 68501. ■

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WINGI

Nebraska's Top Two Wingbacks are a big hit. Extra Large, in fact.

By Mike Babcock

When former Southern Cal football coach Ted Tollner looked at Nate Turner, he saw a tailback.

That's why Turner was receptive to the Trojans' recruiting interest. It was an honor to be recruited as a tailback by a school that has produced four Heisman Trophy-winning tailbacks in the last 24 years: Mike Garrett, O.J. Simpson, Charles White and Marcus Allen.

Turner imagined what it would be like with his name on that list.

Richard Bell played quarterback his senior year in high school, after playing tight end as a junior.

Recruiting analysts listed him as an "athlete" rather than evaluating him at a particular position.

He could have been a defensive back in college. He played that position, as well as linebacker, in high school.

Or he could have been a running back.

But Nebraska saw him as a wingback, just like it saw Turner there.

The only difference was, Turner played wingback in high school, and Bell didn't. Turner, in fact, was a prep All-American at the position.

Both came to Nebraska, of course, and both are wingbacks now. They're not typical wingbacks, to be sure.

But they're wingbacks, nonetheless.

And as such they give the Cornhusker offense an extra dimension.

You aren't likely to find many wingbacks as big as Turner and Bell. "I'd guess the combination of the two is unprecedented," says Ron Brown, Nebraska's receivers coach.

Bell, a senior, is listed at 6-0 and 205 pounds. Turner, a sophomore, is 6-2 and 220, at least. He's nearly as big as Monte Kratzenstein, Nebraska's starting

Richard Bell

NG IT

tight end.

Junior Miller, a Cornhusker All-American tight end in 1979 was 6-4 and 222 pounds. Turner isn't much smaller.

Turner weighed as much as 238 pounds during the winter of his first year at Nebraska. He was trying to become a split end, after redshirting, but he looked more like a linebacker.

"I was always too big," says Turner, who never played organized football until his freshman year in at Chicago's Mount Carmel High School because of his size. He always had outstanding speed, but he could never meet the weight restrictions for his age group in football, so he played baseball.

There weren't any weight restrictions for youngsters playing baseball.

There aren't weight restrictions for Nebraska wingbacks, either, though you might think so looking back at those who have played the position.

Over the years, a typical Cornhusker wingback has been just under 6-0 tall and weighed about 180 pounds. Johnny Rodgers was listed at 5-10, 171. Irving Fryar was probably the biggest, at 6-0, 200, just about Bell's size.

Turner and Bell have changed the look but not the concept of their position. "I don't think it's changing that much in terms of the finesse things we ask our wingbacks to do," says Brown.

"They both play as if they're 170- or 180-pound guys. But they block with a lot more ferocity."

And blocking has become an essential skill for Cornhusker wingbacks.

"Our wingbacks really have to be tough guys because they have to do a lot of sealing on big people. They even have to block outside linebackers standing up on them," Brown says.

Blocking linebackers and strong safeties demands a special aggressiveness. So all of Nebraska's wingbacks are tough. Bell and Turner are big as well as tough.

"You have to take pride in your blocking," says Bell. "A 2.0 (perfect grade) in blocking is as important to the team and to me as a catch. It's not like a wingback is going to have 30 catches for 1,000 yards here."

Through the Cornhuskers' 42-30 vic-

Nate Turner



Wingback spread photos by Kent Morgan Olsen

tory over Utah this season, Bell's career statistics show 17 pass receptions for 328 yards and two TDs.

Productive but not prolific.

Turner played split end last season, catching eight passes for 150 yards.

A 220-pound split end?

That's proof of Turner's remarkable athletic ability. Even though he's a power runner, "Nate has extraordinary speed and quickness," Brown says.

Turner is an unusual wingback not only because of his size but also because he played wingback in high school.

"It's very hard to find a true wingback (in recruiting)," says Brown. "We have to do a lot of projecting when we look at high school athletes. We often have to look at running backs with good hands or split ends who are tough enough to block. True wingbacks are hard to find."

Bell is the type of athlete Brown describes. His senior year at Muir High in Pasadena, Calif., he rushed for 1,341

yards and 14 touchdowns and completed 56 percent of his passes for 1,560 yards and 19 TDs to earn first-team all-conference and All-San Gabriel Valley recognition as a quarterback.

Bell played tight end his junior year at Muir High, catching 33 passes for 656 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Wingbacks are arguably the most versatile athletes on the team.

at Muir High, catching 33 passes for 656 yards and 12 touchdowns.

In the spring, he ran track.

His running style is in sharp contrast to Turner's, according to Brown.

"Rich is all finesse, with a lot of moves and change of direction."

The week before the Oklahoma game in 1986, Bell impersonated Sooner quarterback Jamelle Holieway on the Corn-

husker scout squad.

Though he was bigger than Holieway, he had similar speed and quickness.

Wingbacks are arguably the most versatile athletes on the team.

"It's a deal where you have to feel light as a feather, running with the wind when you get the ball. And on the other plays, you want to feel like you're made of lead, like you can blast a linebacker out of the play. After a while, that changing comes naturally," Bell says of a wingback's need to adapt to markedly different circumstances.

Wingbacks have to "handle the stress of knowing the complete offense, from understanding the passing game as well as a quarterback, the running game like an I-back and the blocking game as well as a guard or a tackle," says Brown.

The blocking component is what distinguishes Nebraska's wingbacks from those on most teams. Often, wingbacks and split ends are interchangeable. But that's not necessarily the case with the

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Cornhuskers' wingbacks.

"We may do more with our wingbacks in terms of heavy duty blocking than some Winged-T offenses do," says Brown.

Tyrone Hughes, a redshirted freshman from New Orleans, and Mark Dowse, a sophomore walkon from Broken Bow, are more typical wingbacks. They have similar speed and quickness but not the size of Turner and Bell.

Hughes is listed at 5-9 and 175 pounds, Dowse at 6-0 and 170.

They're both "fairly tough kids," Brown says. "But not what the other two (Bell and Turner) are."

Hughes is similar to former Cornhusker wingback Dana Brinson. Appropriately, he wears the same No. 33 jersey.

Hughes, like Turner, played wingback in high school, in a system similar to Nebraska's. "Tyrone did a lot of things (in high school) we ask our wingbacks

Husker wingback firsts: Rodgers (left) was NU's first Heisman winner, and Fryar (right) is the only Husker to be the No. 1 NFL draft pick.

to do," says Brown.

Hughes and scholarship freshman Vernon Powell, who's currently injured, "have about as quick feet as anyone in our program right now," Brown adds.

Powell, 5-10 and 160, played quarterback at East St. Louis, Ill., Senior High. But he probably will play wingback at Nebraska. The final decision hasn't been made.

"We may start him out at wingback but he has split end possibilities, too," Brown says. "He has excellent hands and a good feel for pass routes."

Turner has those qualities, which is why he's not an I-back right now. He spent a couple of practices at running back during preseason camp as a Cornhusker freshman two years ago. But he seemed more natural at receiver.

Turner might have played with the varsity immediately at Nebraska. He was given that opportunity, after the first freshman scrimmage two years ago. But

continued on page 33

Mike Babcock

Ready To Try

PROP 48ers CARL HAYES AND LEWIS GETER
AREN'T CONVINCED THE LAYOFF WILL HURT THEM.

Two days before the Nebraska basketball team began practice with a midnight scrimmage last October, Al Papik, an assistant athletic director in charge of administrative and academic services, notified Carl Hayes that he probably would not be eligible.

Hayes, a highly regarded freshman from Chicago, had gone through nearly half a semester thinking he had met all the requirements under the NCAA's Bylaw 5-1-(j), better known as Proposition 48.

Hayes was personally devastated by

the news. "I was ready to go home," he says.

He had never imagined he wouldn't be able to play. "I was charged up to show what I could do, and then, when I found out, I was upset. I didn't know what to do," says Hayes.

If it hadn't been for the encouragement and support of several people, including his roommate Ray Richardson, Hayes really might have packed up his belongings and returned to Chicago. Richardson, a transfer from Hiwassee College in Madisonville, Tenn., "calmed me down," Hayes says. "He kept telling me how it was when he had to go through it for two years.

"I realized there's more to life than just basketball."

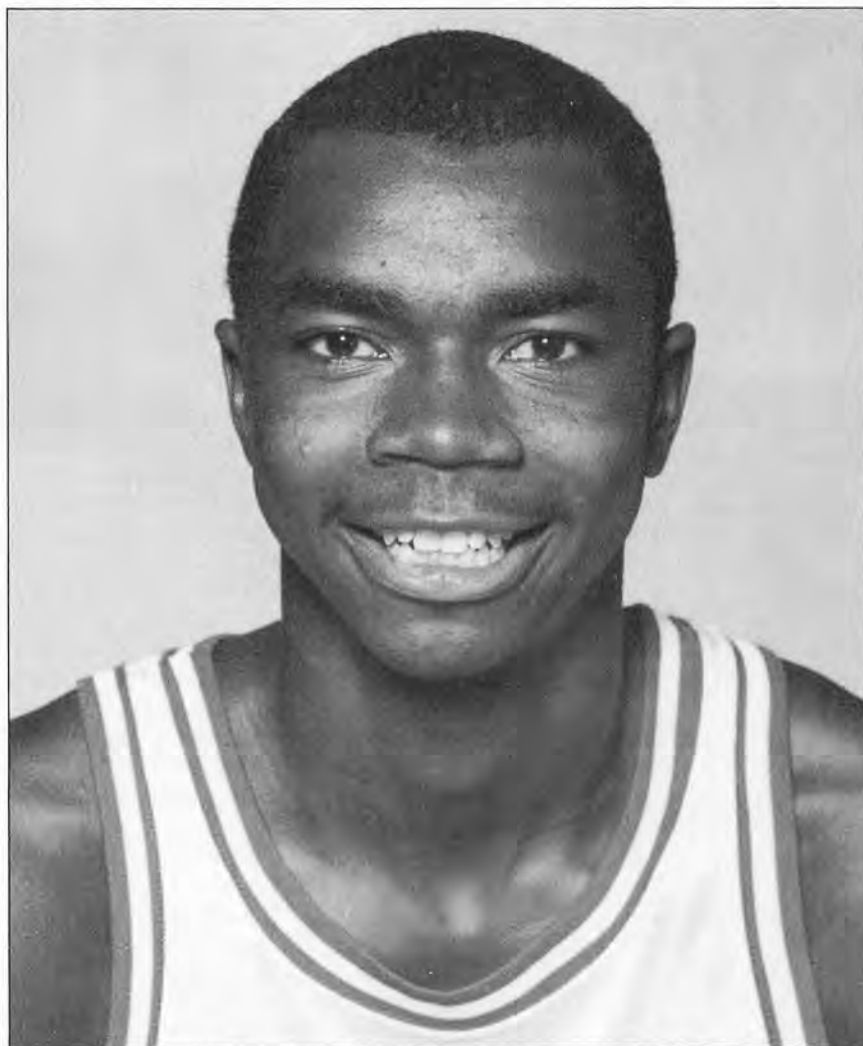
Hayes' case was unusual. He was close, according to James O'Hanlon, Nebraska's faculty representative to the Big Eight Conference and the NCAA. It was like "shooting a last-second shot and having it rim out," O'Hanlon said after Hayes was declared ineligible.

Under Prop 48 guidelines at the time, incoming freshmen had to have a 2.0 high school grade-point average in a core curriculum and either an ACT score of 15 or an SAT score of 700 in order to be eligible to compete.

Those who failed to meet the requirements couldn't even practice.

A check of Hayes' high school transcript showed that one of his core courses had been taken by correspondence and completed in July, two months after his graduation. The NCAA requires that all core courses be completed by the time a student-athlete graduates.

Nebraska asked the NCAA for an interpretation. After much bureaucratic delay, Hayes was declared ineligible. He



Prop 48 taught Hayes there's more to life than basketball.

couldn't even be on scholarship.

Lewis Geter, another highly regarded Cornhusker freshman from Columbus, Ohio, could be on scholarship, as a partial qualifier. But he also was ineligible to practice or compete under the restrictions of Prop 48.

Geter came up just short of the minimum standardized test score. But he knew that in July, long before he enrolled at Nebraska. As a result, Geter was better able to come to grips with not being able to play.

He arrived on campus "ready to better myself in the classroom," he says. "Basketball isn't everything."

Geter's determination paid off. He earned a 3.2 grade-point average (on a 4.0 scale) in his first-semester classes, according to Nebraska coach Danny Nee. Hayes earned a 2.7.

Now, Geter and Hayes can concern themselves with scoring averages again as well as grade-point averages. "We've got to look at the future," says Hayes. "That's all in the past."

He and Geter are both expected to be integral parts of the immediate future of Nebraska basketball.

The recruiting class of which they were prominent members was ranked among the best in the nation, and it was certainly one of Nebraska's best. Van Coleman, who publishes the *National Recruiter's Cage Letter*, rated Geter and Hayes among the top 50 high school players in the nation at their positions. They were so good that Nee expected them to come in and contribute immediately.

If they had been eligible.

Geter, who's 6-6, played at Linden McKinley High in Columbus, averaging 18 points and 11.9 rebounds per game as a senior. He was All-Ohio and an all-tournament selection after helping his team to the runner-up spot in the state's large-school tournament.

Geter and Nee first met when Geter was an eighth-grader in Columbus and Nee was the head basketball coach at Ohio University. Ever since then, Geter said he had planned to play for Nee.

Geter was the Cornhuskers' first recruit during the NCAA's one-week, early signing period in 1987, picking Nebraska, he said, because of Nee and because it provided him an opportunity

to play immediately.

He made recruiting visits to Ohio, Ohio State, Michigan State and Xavier, where he had lunch with Pete Rose. Xavier is located in Cincinnati.

According to Van Coleman, Geter, who played varsity basketball at Linden McKinley High as a freshman, was "one of the best-kept (recruiting) secrets in the Midwest."

But enough schools knew about him that all the recruiting attention may have contributed to his failing to qualify under Prop 48. "There were so many distractions," Geter says. "I focused on the recruiting visits."

He should have focused on qualifying academically.

Hayes, 6-7, played at Westchester St. Joseph High School in suburban Chicago, averaging 17 points and 10 rebounds per game as a senior.

Hayes also has a solid basketball background, even though he didn't play the sport on an organized basis until the eighth grade. Melvin McCants, who went on to play basketball at Purdue, suggested Hayes play in a tournament with his (McCants') brother.

Hayes did and was hooked.

Though he lives in Chicago, he went to St. Joseph High, some 45 minutes away. Gene Pingatore, St. Joseph's highly successful basketball coach, recruited Hayes to the Catholic League school, which produced NBA star Isiah Thomas as well as Cornhusker Clifford Scales.

When Pingatore mentioned Thomas, that "put a light in my eyes," says Hayes, who started only one season there. But he led the team in rebounding as the sixth man his junior year.

That team, which included Scales, reached the semifinals of the Illinois large-schools state tournament.

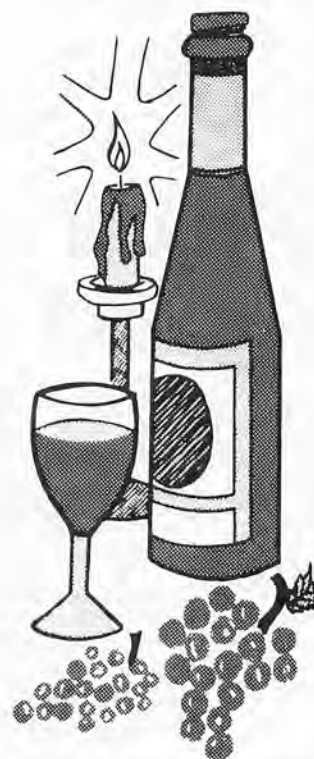
Hayes made official recruiting visits to Texas-El Paso and Colorado before settling on Nebraska.

Understandably, both players are eager for this basketball season to begin.

Last year, they played intramural basketball — though not on the same team — and concentrated on studies. They attended Cornhusker home games, and "sometimes, you wanted to jump in a uniform and help," says Geter.

He went home for the summer and prepared for this season by playing in

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an organized league as well as in pick-up games on campus at Ohio State and outdoors in the neighborhood.

Geter also got in a little basketball on the job. He worked with kids in a city parks and recreation program, teaching arts and crafts and games.

Hayes went home to Chicago and spent time with his father, working construction in New Mexico before returning to Nebraska for the final, five-week summer session.

Because of his travels, he couldn't play basketball in an organized summer league. But Hayes got in some outdoor pick-up games with his father, when temperatures cooled off at the end of the workday. "That wasn't much of a challenge," says Hayes.

This season will be, for both of them. Players forced to sit out a season because of Prop 48 have needed time to adjust. Geter figures they won't need too much time. "About halfway through the season, we should be playing like seniors," he says with a smile.

"But it'll be bad at the beginning."

Both players have matured physically since they arrived on campus. Geter weighed only 177 pounds; now he's well on his way to what he hopes will be a playing weight of 190, he says.

Hayes weighed 185 pounds when he came to Nebraska. Now he weighs 196. He'd like to weigh "a solid 205."

Both players have jersey numbers picked. Geter will wear No. 32, worn by Magic Johnson. Hayes has settled on No. 21, formerly worn by Derrick Vick, who's also from Chicago. "I wanted No. 35. That was my number in high school. But Pete Manning had it," says Hayes.

Manning completed his eligibility last season, which meant No. 35 was open. But "I don't want it now," Hayes says. "I'm addicted to No. 21."

Geter and Hayes have proven themselves in pick-up games on campus, according to the Cornhuskers' 7-2 Rich King. They'll be valuable additions to this year's team, but "I'm not going to expect too much from them early," says King, who remembers his adjustment as a freshman. "When you're a freshman, you think you're ready and you're not."

Don't tell Geter and Hayes.

They've waited too long for this. ■

HUSKERS REVIEWED

Nebraska vs. Minnesota

Talk of the Town

THE HUSKERS HAD A POINT TO PROVE:
ANY NATIONAL TITLE DISCUSSION HAD BETTER INCLUDE NEBRASKA.

By Rod Henkel



MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — Nebraska fans who migrated to the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in droves returned to Huskerland with plenty of new conversation topics.

The fact sophomore quarterback Mike Grant played against Minnesota will stimulate great fan interest, but more importantly, the Cornhuskers played a complete game offensively, defensively, and on special teams.

Plenty of vocal NU fans — an estimated 16,000 or more — witnessed Nebraska's 13th consecutive win against

Petko (37), Croel (88) and the Black Shirts got their shutout.

the Golden Gophers, a 48-0 shutout.

The Cornhuskers, 3-0 and last week ranked No. 3 by the Associated Press, rolled up 530 yards of total offense, while limiting Minnesota to 163.

"We laid a good foundation for having a good ball club," said NU linebacker Pat Tyrance.

The Black Shirts provided the most solid brickwork during a night filled

with construction.

The Golden Gophers, led by a quarterback who owned the nation's second-best efficiency rating, never ended a drive in Big Red territory until the game's final possession.

Minnesota's career rushing leader, Darrell Thompson, carried 17 times for a net gain of 45 yards, and quarterback Scott Schaffner completed just seven of 24 passes for 61 yards.

Linebackers Mike Croel and David White paced the Nebraska defense with six tackles apiece while Tyrance and another linebacker, Jeff Mills, made five

each.

The Black Shirts recorded six sacks for a total loss of 34 yards as Croel and Mills made two tackles each for lost yards. Joe Sims, Tyrance, LeAndre Anderson, and Paul Brungardt also tackled Minnesota runners for losses.

"I thought we played defense like I thought we could play defense," said Tom Osborne. "Defense was really the name of the game in the first half. They

couldn't move the ball and that gave us a lot of good chances."

The Huskers gained possession of the football, on the average, at their own 45-yard line before intermission, primarily because of their defense.

After facing teams that concentrated on one facet of offense in the first two weeks of the season, the Black Shirts had to contend with a run-pass offense in Minnesota.

The Gophers ran the ball 34 times versus Nebraska and attempted 27 passes.

"This was more normal; snap it up and play ball," Tyrance said. "It's more of what we're used to facing. We felt real comfortable with what we were doing"

Because of the 17 and 30 points allowed to Northern Illinois and Utah, respectively, the NU defense drew criticism last week, namely from a Minnesota writer.

Nebraska players had plenty of time while waiting for Saturday night's kickoff to digest any complaints.

"We had a lot to prove this game," said Nebraska strong safety Reggie Cooper.

Both teams failed to move the football on their first two possessions.

Nebraska gained field position, however, on the strength of Mike Stigge's right foot.

Stigge, a redshirt freshman from Washington, Kan., booted his first punt 46 yards and then boomed a 49-yarder on his second attempt, which Morgan Gregory downed on the Minnesota 2-yard line.

Later in the first half, Stigge's 34-yard punt was fielded with a fair catch at the Gopher 9.

"He's a good kicker," said Dan Young, Nebraska's offensive line and kickers coach. "He does a real good job of placing the ball, too."

When Minnesota failed to move the football following Stigge's second punt, Nebraska regained possession at the Gopher 42 after a punt.

Numerous Cornhuskers made big plays during the visitors' six-play, 42-yard drive that I-back Ken Clark finished on a 6-yard touchdown run with 1:52 remaining in the first quarter.

Clark, who gained 100 yards for the sixth consecutive regular-season game, threw a block on quarterback Gerry Gdowski's 6-yard run.

Bill Bobbora, Bryan Carpenter, and Chip Bahe then led the way for Clark's 8-yard run around right end. Nate Turner followed Gregory's block for a 10-yard gain.

Jim Wanek drove a Gopher out of the way on Clark's touchdown run, on which the Omaha Bryan graduate dove over the goal line.

SCORING SUMMARY

Nebraska 48, Minnesota 0

Nebraska.....	7	17	10	14	— 48
Minnesota.....	0	0	0	0	— 0

- Neb — Clark 6 run (Barrios kick).
- Neb — FG, Barrios 38.
- Neb — Bell 26 pass from Gdowski (Barrios kick).
- Neb — Clark 14 run (Barrios kick).
- Neb — FG, Drennan 42.
- Neb — Flowers 1 run (Barrios kick).
- Neb — Flowers 37 run (Barrios kick).
- Neb — Dowse 7 run (Drennan kick).

Attendance: 58,368



Photo by John Bills

OLB Mills (42) turned in his best game of the year.

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The scoring march gave the 58,368 Metrodome fans an indication of what was to come from Nebraska's offense.

Scoring on three of their next four possessions, the Cornhuskers built a 24-0 cushion by intermission.

Nebraska had success on offense despite what Osborne called a make-shift offensive line.

Steve Engstrom, a junior walkon from Lincoln Pius X High School, became the third right tackle to start for NU's offense in three games.

Doug Glaser and Erik Wiegert both failed to make the trip because of injuries.

Prior to Nebraska's initial offensive series, offensive line starters Tom Punt, Wanek, All-American Jake Young and Bobbora agreed to prove something.

"A lot of people were saying the offensive line is not like it has been in the past," Engstrom said. "We wanted to prove to ourselves and other people that we are a good line. I think we came together as an offensive line tonight."

Engstrom applied the most visible block of the contest during a Nebraska non-scoring drive in the second quarter.

Gdowski handed the football to Clark, who in turn gave it to wingback Nate Turner, who sped around right end for a 14-yard gain.

When Turner rounded the corner with a Minnesota defender chasing him, Engstrom waited until just before the Gopher turned and he rolled at his ankles. Engstrom watched from the huddle the replay of his block on a large television screen in the Metrodome and Gdowski "got mad at me."

"I heard everybody go 'ooh, ahh' and I wanted to know what happened," Eng-



Grant's arrival gives NU a 1-2-3 punch at QB.

strom said. "Gerry had a good block on that, too."

Gdowski did most everything well against the Gophers.

The senior from Fremont, Neb., completed 10 of 15 passes for 180 yards, including a 26-yard touchdown to Richard Bell in the second quarter.

Bell's six-point reception came nearly eight minutes after Gregg Barrios' 38-yard field goal and about three minutes before Clark's 14-yard TD run that ended the first-half scoring.

The Huskers attacked through the air and on land throughout the entire game. At one time early in the second half, Nebraska had 162 rushing yards and 164

passing yards. Big Red finished with just a 60-yard difference between air and ground yardage.

"We had a real good week of throwing the ball in practice this week," Gdowski said. "It kind of gave us confidence and the coaches confidence that we could throw the ball."

While Clark moved to seventh on the NU career rushing chart with 2,239 yards on his 100-yard performance, his backfield mate enjoyed a more productive evening.

Bell, a senior wingback from Altadena, Calif., caught five passes for 121 yards, including a 34-yard completion.

He also returned seven punts for a net gain of 78, including one of 24 yards. The Huskers averaged just 2.4 yards on five punt returns through their first two games, but averaged 9.6 yards on 10 returns against the Golden Gophers.

Bell's 26-yard kickoff return to start the second half put the Huskers at their 34. Six plays later, Chris Drennan kicked a 42-yard field goal.

Leodis Flowers climaxed NU's next touchdown drive with a 1-yard run behind blocking by Wanek and fullback Sam Schmidt.

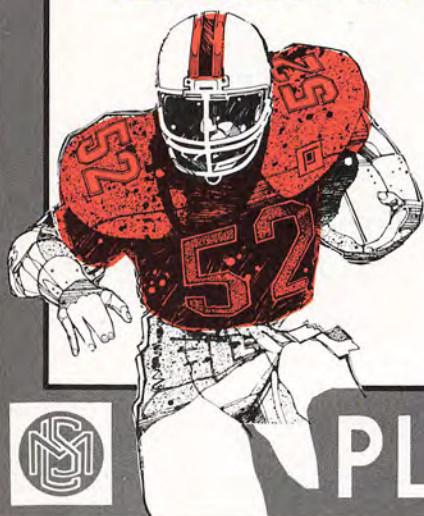
Flowers added a dazzling, 37-yard scoring scamper with 10:08 remaining in the game. The sophomore from Omaha followed Chris O'Gara, William Washington, and Schmidt around right end, broke a tackle at the 25, spun around, and raced to the end zone.

Sophomore wingback Mark Dowse of Broken Bow, Neb., completed the scoring with a 7-yard run.

Grant engineered the final Nebraska scoring drive, an 87-yard march, by run-

continued on page 21

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PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Bell Does It All

Despite the fact Richard Bell touched the football only 14 times Saturday night, the Golden Gophers saw plenty of Nebraska's starting wingback.

Bell, a senior from Altadena, Calif., accounted for 225 yards of total offense against Minnesota.

As a punt returner, Bell picked up 78

yards on seven opportunities, including a 24-yard runback.

Nebraska averaged just 2.4 yards on five punt returns prior to the Minnesota game. But the Huskers returned 10 punts for a total of 96 yards versus the Gophers and Bell was the primary return man.

Bell also caught five passes for 121 yards and one touchdown and he rushed once for no gain.

Bell's first reception was a 26-yard scoring pass from QB Gerry Gdowski with 3:50 remaining in the second quarter to give Nebraska a 17-0 lead.

Gdowski and Bell hooked up for two big gainers during Nebraska's 66-yard, nine-play scoring drive midway through the third period.

Bell caught a 34-yard pass on a third-and-six play and then hauled in a 24-yard completion on third-and-five. His second catch of the drive put the ball at the Minnesota 1 after he drug a Gopher defender the final 10 yards.

Within a four-play span during the late third and early fourth quarter, Bell caught his fourth and fifth passes, one each from Gdowski and Mickey Joseph.

Bell and backup wingback Nate Turner each caught five passes, and for a specific reason.

"They were in a coverage where the wingbacks were more open than the split ends," Gdowski said.

Gdowski and I-back Ken Clark also enjoyed productive nights in the Metrodome.

Gdowski completed 10 of 15 passes for 180 yards and a TD, in addition to gaining 36 yards on seven rushes.

Clark netted an even 100 yards for the sixth consecutive time in a regular-season game and moved to seventh on the NU career rushing chart with 2,239 yards. ■

Bell (21) was one of several productive Huskers.



Photo by John Bills

continued from page 19

ning for 32 yards and completing two of three passes for 34 more.

Most Nebraska fans remained until the final seconds. They traveled to Minneapolis for an entire weekend and Grant's fourth-quarter performance completed the festivities.

First, many of the same Husker faithful attended a Minnesota-Oakland professional baseball game Friday, Saturday, or both.

Then, they stood outside the H.H.H. Metrodome even before the doors opened at 5:30 p.m. Saturday. After entering the arena, they watched as workers spent more than four hours transforming the field from baseball to football, and within a matter of minutes, players from both squads smeared the chalk off of the yard-line markers.

Finally, Big Red followers witnessed a good performance by their team.

"We'd heard a lot about how, potentially, we could have a good team," Gdowski said. "We wanted to show people we are a good team."

The Huskers certainly did that. ■



Photo by John Bills

TE William Washington barely misses a TD.

Game	Score	First Downs Tot Ru-Pa-Pn	Rushing Att-Yds-TD	Passing Att-Com-Int-Yds-TD	Total Offense Att-Yds	Punting No-Avg	Fumbles No-Lost	Pen. No-Yds	Third Downs	T-of-P
@NEBRASKA.....	48	24 19-5-0	47-470-4	13-8-1-102-2	60-557	2-42.5	5-4	5-40	1-6	24:41
No. Illinois.....	17	11 7-3-1	50-162-2	13-5-1-44-0	63-174	10-38.1	1-0	7-57	5-18	35:19
@NEBRASKA.....	42	23 21-2-0	59-442-5	8-3-1-27-0	67-459	3-37.3	2-1	7-60	2-9	31:23
Utah.....	30	25 8-13-4	31-105-0	44-26-3-297-4	75-402	3-49.0	2-0	11-70	6-15	28:37
NEBRASKA.....	48	22 12-8-2	55-295-5	19-13-0-235-1	74-530	3-43.0	5-1	9-94	9-16	31:40
@Minnesota.....	0	10 5-3-2	34-58-0	27-8-3-61-0	61-163	10-37.8	1-0	12-78	6-17	28:20
@NEBRASKA.....										
Oregon State.....										
@NEBRASKA.....										
Kansas State.....										
NEBRASKA.....										
@Missouri.....										
NEBRASKA.....										
@Oklahoma St.....										
@NEBRASKA.....										
Iowa State.....										
NEBRASKA.....										
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@NEBRASKA.....										
Kansas.....										
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WEEKLY WINNERS

(Editor's Note: To better serve our readers, Nebraska's weekly Scout Team and Receiver Blocking honorees will be featured during each game-recap issue, instead of the next week's issue. Therefore, this edition includes both Utah and Minnesota awards. Hereafter, all Scout Team and Receiver Blocking stories will be specific to that issue's game.)

SCOUT TEAM VS. UTAH

Simulating Utah's 6-6 quarterback Scott Mitchell was a tall task for 6-1 sophomore Bart James. But he had a good time doing a good job.

"It was a lot of fun," said James, who was Scout Team Offensive Player of the Week for his efforts in preparing the varsity for Utah. "We threw the ball in practice close to 90 percent of the time, so it was pretty exciting."

Mitchell completed 26 of 44 passes for 297 yards in Nebraska's 42-30 win, but there were no stats to measure James' effort, notable in itself.

"Simulating Utah's offense wasn't easy," said assistant coach Dan Young. "Bart was able to get the ball to the receivers and show some poise."

James' run-pass skills helped earn him a scholarship a year ago out of McClintock High School in Tempe, Ariz. Last fall, he was JV backup to quarterback Mike Grant. Redshirting now, James sees his scout-team practice as a future investment.

"It's going to give me a long time to learn and understand our offense that much better. I'm getting ready for spring ball already by getting things down and applying the things I know as a quarterback against our defense."

Redshirt safety Brian Pollard, was Defensive Player of the Week for Utah.

"Utah's defense showed a lot of blitzes," Young explained. "And Brian worked hard. I thought he gave our quarterbacks a pretty good look."

The Clarks, Neb., sophomore has a unique attitude about the scout team.

"We're trying to be brats," he says. "We try to get the offense mad and try to make them look bad. You just can't lay back. It's serious business, but we try to stay loose and have fun with it."

"Some people look at sitting out as a negative, but you can make it a positive. If we win on Saturday, the scout teamers can feel like we were a part of it. And if you play well, you'll eventually get your chance."

SCOUT TEAM VS. MINNESOTA

Though not as highly publicized as somewhat of the younger Huskers, linebacker Brian Mohnsen has inspired high expectations by the Nebraska coaches. Defensive Player of the Week for Minnesota, Mohnsen was given the duty in Minnesota's 4-3 defense to roam the field from the middle linebacker spot, ala Gopher ace Jon Leverenz.

"He played aggressively this week," said Young. "Brian is a big, tough kid who plays his position well. A lot of people haven't heard much about him, but he's someone who could see a lot of playing time in the near future."

A 6-3, 195-pound native of McCook, Neb., Mohnsen walked on and played on the 1987 junior varsity team as a defensive end-outside linebacker in a limited role, making six tackles. After redshirting last year, he moved to the inside linebacker position for his sophomore season.

"He's one of the players who has worked hard to be where he's at," said Young. "Brian has improved quite a bit, and he's playing the inside position very well. His efforts are paying off for him and the team."

Preparing for the Gopher ground attack wasn't that easy for the Husker defense. In fact, earlier in the week, Tom Osborne had said that running back Darrell Thompson may well be the best back Nebraska faces this year.

Facing Thompson, the defensive line would have to be sharp.

Anchoring the scout-team offensive line was third-year sophomore John Clarke, whose efforts in preparation earned him Offensive Player of the Week honors for Minnesota.

"John had his best week of practice," said NU assistant Jack Pierce. "And that was important for us against Minnesota. It's tough when you have to line up against players like Kent Wells and the rest of the defensive line play after play, but John battled them pretty well and held his own."

A 6-3, 260-pound native Brock, Neb., Clarke walked on after a standout career at Auburn High School and played as a backup on the offensive line for the 1987 junior varsity team.

RECEIVER BLOCKING VS. UTAH

As quarterback Gerry Gdowski ran into the end zone for his second TD

against Utah, tight end William Washington picked himself off the turf, his job well done.

Facing first-and-goal at the Utah 8, NU's double tight end formation featured Washington on the right side. His assignment on this play was to get the key block at the point of attack on the Ute end. And did he ever.

"William put the guy clean on his back," said receivers coach Ron Brown. "He really did an excellent job at the point of attack for us."

Washington's effort against Utah earned him Blocker of the Week honors among the Husker receivers. This red-shirt freshman scored a team-high 16 point-of-attack blocks, including an incredible 11 knockdowns plus four TD-producing (blazer) blocks.

"Our option game against Utah depended a lot on the tight end's ability to block the end one-on-one, and I felt William did an excellent job of that all day. And to have 11 knockdowns — that's phenomenal for a tight end."

In winning the award, Washington had to beat out three seniors, including tight end Monte Krattenstein, who recorded a bruising six knockdowns.

Senior wingback Richard Bell also played a key role, according to Brown. "He's been consistent for us," said Brown. "He was a key for us at the point of attack when we spread the offense out more. Richard did a good job of opening things up on the play side."

The third stellar performer was senior split end Chip Bahe, who often set up long runs with his downfield and back-side blocking, sustaining many of them a long time.

RECEIVER BLOCKING VS. MINNESOTA

Against Utah, split end Chip Bahe was a close second, but against Minnesota, he played well enough to be a close first, earning Blocker of the Week honors among Nebraska's receivers for Minnesota.

"Chip was close to William Washington last week, but William just did some amazing things," said Ron Brown, NU receivers coach. "Then against Minnesota, Chip was again outstanding and just a shade ahead of (split end) Morgan Gregory. Chip's extra effort was great."

Bahe, a senior from Fremont, has made a physically phenomenal change.

"He came in as a freshman at about 140 pounds and has since built himself up to over 170. With that hard work in the weight room, Chip can really deliver a blow. It's taken time, but he's improved tremendously over his career."

Brown was hoping the Husker receivers as a whole would also improve their blocking against Minnesota, but he knows they faced an unusual situation.

"We blocked just great against Northern Illinois and Utah," Brown explained. "Against Minnesota, we weren't quite as sharp. But that doesn't mean the guys didn't do a good job, because they truly did. They just set some high standards those first two games."

BLOCKING STATS VS. UTAH

Point of attack: Washington, 16; Bell, 11; Bahe, 7; Turner, 7; Kratzenstein, 6; Garrett, 3; Gregory, 3.

Knockdowns: Washington 11; Kratzenstein, 6; Bell, 3; Gregory, 3; Bahe, 3; Dowse, 1; Turner, 1.

Extra efforts: Bell, 2; Gregory.

Stones: Turner, 1; Washington, 1.

Blazers: Washington, 4; Bell, 2; Bahe, 1; Garrett, 1; Kratzenstein, 1; Turner, 1.

UTAH TOTALS

Tight ends: Washington, 32; Kratzenstein, 13; Garrett, 4.

Wingbacks: Bell 18; Turner 10; Dowse 1.

Split ends: Bahe, 11; Gregory, 8.

BLOCKING STATS VS. MINNESOTA

Point of Attacks: Washington, 15; Kratzenstein, 12; Garrett, 10; Gregory, 8; Bell, 8; Turner, 8; Bahe, 5; Dowse, 5.

Knockdowns: Kratzenstein, 3; Turner, 3; Washington, 3; Bell, 3; Garrett, 3; Dowse, 3; Gregory, 2; Bahe, 2.

Extra Efforts: Bahe, 9; Gregory, 7; Garrett, 1; Hughes, 1; Kratzenstein, 1; Turner, 1.

Stones: Gregory, 1.

Blazers: Washington 3; Garrett, 3; Bahe, 2; Turner, 1.

MINNESOTA TOTALS

Tight ends: Washington, 21; Garrett, 17; Kratzenstein, 16.

Wingbacks: Turner 13; Bell 11; Dowse 8.

Split ends: Bahe, 18; Gregory, 18; Hughes, 1.

SEASON LEADERS:

Tight ends: Washington, 68; Kratzenstein, 45; Garrett, 23.

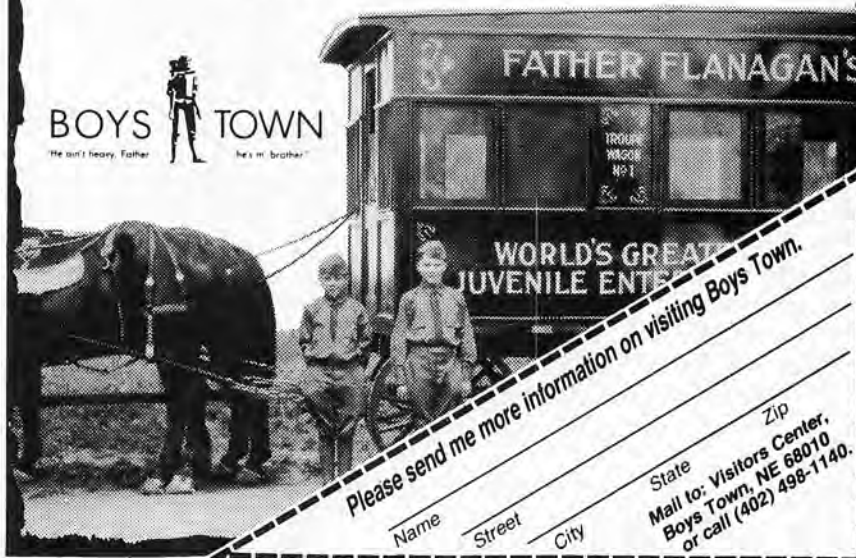
Split ends: Gregory, 40; Bahe, 39.

Wingbacks: Bell 42; Turner 37; Dowse 11.

On the cover: Wingback Richard Bell. Cover photo by John Bills; 400 mm f2.8 Canon lense; Canon F-1 camera body; Ek-tapress 1600 print film; f/4.0 at 1/500. Custom printing of Minnesota game by Photo Factory of Lincoln. ■

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STATE OF THE HUSKERS

By Mike Babcock

For the Betterment of the Team

Mike Grant's redshirt season ended with 8:33 remaining in Nebraska's 48-0 victory over Minnesota.

The game had long since been decided when Tom Osborne sent the sophomore quarterback from Valrico, Fla., in, replacing Mickey Joseph.

On his first play from scrimmage, Grant kept on an option and gained 5 yards. One down later, on third-and-two, he kept again, gaining 9.

Grant's first pass fell incomplete. But he found wingback Nate Turner for a 19-yard gain on his second, during a 16-play, 87-yard drive that produced Nebraska's final touchdown.

As expected, it was an impressive debut.

However, it wasn't expected that Grant's debut would be this season, particularly after what happened in the

fourth quarter of the Cornhuskers' previous game against Utah.

Grant had declined when Osborne told him it was his turn to play.

This time, he agreed.

Whatever's best for the team.

On the Monday after the Utah game, Osborne talked to him about that, Grant said, and "I decided I was going to get prepared to play. I wasn't going to be indecisive this time.

"It's something I had to do for the betterment of the team."

It's also something he had to do for himself. Gerry Gdowski is firmly established as the No. 1 quarterback, but he'll be gone next season.

So Grant will compete for the starting job in the spring. And as a redshirt, he'd likely end up playing on the scout team, which, in turn, might mean "I

would've lost a little," he said.

Now, he'll continue competing with Joseph as Gdowski's back-up.

Actually, Osborne's decision to use Grant against Minnesota shouldn't have been surprising. Osborne probably wouldn't have included Grant on the 60-player travel roster if he hadn't planned to use him.

Grant knew all week he'd be making the trip and prepared accordingly.

"I just don't think right now, with the style of offense we're using, that we can afford to not play him," Osborne said of Grant.

"The odds of getting through the season with Gdowski staying healthy aren't very good."

The quarterback is vulnerable in the option.

Gdowski carried seven times for 36 yards against Minnesota. He's carried 27 times this season. He's second on the team in carries and rushing yards to I-back Ken Clark.

Early in the second half of the Minnesota game, Gdowski went to the sideline briefly with a sore shoulder.

Ironically, if the decision to remove Grant's redshirt had depended solely on Gdowski's play against Minnesota, it probably wouldn't have been made. In addition to his 36 yards rushing, Gdowski completed 10 of 15 passes for 180 yards and one touchdown.

Nebraska hasn't had a quarterback pass for that many yards since Steve Taylor went 10-of-15 for 217 yards and five touchdowns against UCLA in 1987.

The best Nebraska quarterbacks could do last season was 10-of-14 for 169 yards against Utah State.

Grant, who may be the best passer among the top three quarterbacks according to Osborne, could add versatility to Nebraska's offense.

Even though he had yet to play in a varsity game, Grant's name was familiar to Cornhusker fans. He led Coach Shane Thorell's junior varsity to a 5-0 record last season as a freshman, rolling up 912 yards of offense.

That total was the second-highest in

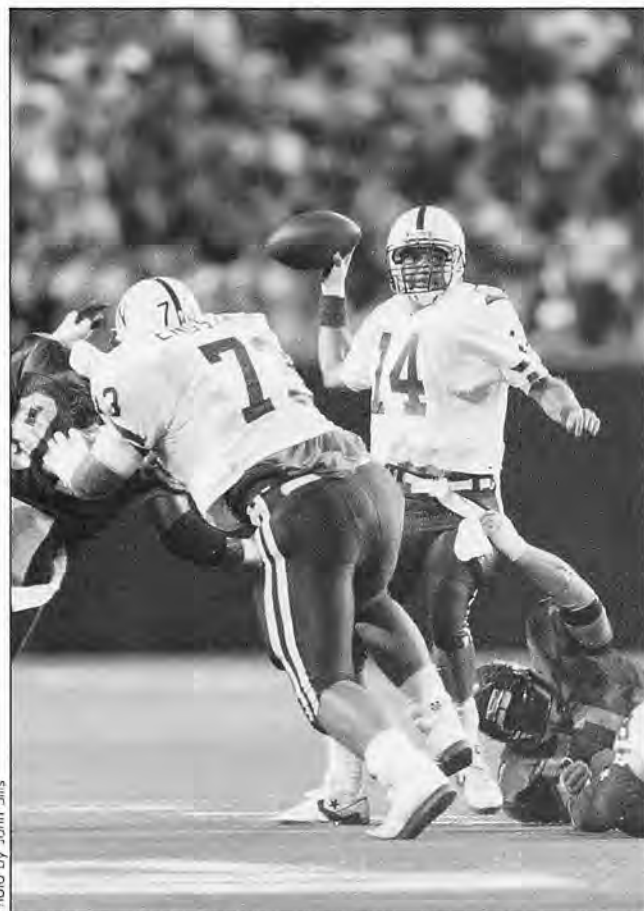


Photo by John Dills

Gdowski's early play has drawn Osborne's praise.

Nebraska JV history.

Turner Gill, also a quarterback, set the record at 979 in 1980.

Gill's varsity debut, like Grant's, was much awaited and much publicized. The three-time All-Big Eight performer started the fifth game of his sophomore season and threw for four touchdowns.

After his impressive JV performance, Grant earned more attention during the Spring Game by leading the Whites to a 40-28 upset of the Reds, rushing for 157 yards and one touchdown.

Gdowski didn't seem surprised by Osborne's decision to "un-redshirt" Grant. "You want to have your best players (available) when the time comes, and Mike's definitely one," he said.

That was apparent on a fourth-and-five from the Minnesota 12 during the touchdown drive Grant engineered. As he was being tackled, Grant made a perfectly timed pitch to I-back Andre McDuffy for a 7-yard gain.

It would seem Grant has little to gain

by redshirting.

Gdowski, an top student who's on schedule to graduate, has not redshirted.

Joseph, on the other hand, redshirted in 1987. Like Grant, he's now a sophomore in eligibility.

Going into fall camp, Osborne said the decision of whether or not to red-shirt Grant would depend on his position on the depth chart. If he was a clearcut third, he probably would. If he was second, or first, he wouldn't.

So when Joseph went into the opener against Northern Illinois No. 2, it appeared Grant would be held out.

Joseph had some difficulty handling center snaps at Minnesota. He carried once for no gain and completed one pass for 21 yards.

Afterward, Osborne said for the time being at least, Joseph would be No. 2.

Reporters must request players for postgame interviews, and Grant, of course, was much in demand.

The shedding of his redshirt was big

news at the end of what became a ho-hum victory.

Few came to Minnesota expecting to see Grant play. "I certainly don't want that to be the overwhelming story to come out of this game," said Osborne. "A lot of guys played well."

He was right.

Bell and Turner each caught five passes for a combined 210 yards. Clark gained an even 100 yards on only 18 carries to win a personal battle with Minnesota's all-star tailback Darrell Thompson, who got only 45 yards.

Bell returned seven punts for 78 yards as the Cornhuskers finally showed signs of coming around in that area.

And the defense dominated. "This was, by far, our most complete game," Osborne said.

Nevertheless, members of the Nebraska media were eager to talk to Grant.

His surprise appearance in the game was big news, even if it wasn't that much of a factor in the outcome. ■



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STATISTICS

GAME BY GAME PASSING STATISTICS

	NO. ILLINOIS	UTAH	MINNESOTA	OREGON ST.	KANSAS ST.	MISSOURI	OKLA. STATE	IOWA STATE	COLORADO	KANSAS	OKLAHOMA	TOTAL
Dunlap, QB	0-0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0-0	DNP									0-0-0-0-0
Gdowski, QB	8-6-1-83-1	6-3-0-27-0	15-10-0-180-1									29-19-1-290-2
Grant, QB	DNP	DNP	3-2-0-34-0									3-2-0-34-0
Haase, QB	DNP	DNP	DNP									
Joseph, QB	5-2-0-19-1	DNP	1-1-0-21-0									6-3-0-40-1
McCant, QB	0-0-0-0-0	1-0-1-0-0	DNP									1-0-1-0-0

LEGEND: Attempts-Completions-Interceptions-Yardage-TD

GAME BY GAME RUSHING STATISTICS

	NO. ILLINOIS	UTAH	MINNESOTA	OREGON ST.	KANSAS ST.	MISSOURI	OKLA. STATE	IOWA STATE	COLORADO	KANSAS	OKLAHOMA	TOTAL
Baldwin, IB		DNP	DNP									
Bell, WB	2-39-0-33	4-38-0-18	1-0-0-0									7-77-0-18
Bobolz, WB		DNP	DNP									
Carpenter, FB	2-11-0-11	5-102-1-29	5-21-0-7									12-134-1-29
Clark, IB	14-168-0-47	22-130-1-22	18-100-2-16									54-398-3-47
Devall, WB		DNP	DNP									
Dowse, WB	1-10-1-10	DNP	2-10-1-7									3-20-2-10
Dunlap, QB	1-(4)-0-0	1-1-0-1	DNP									2-(3)-0-1
Flowers, IB	11-65-2-14	5-21-0-15	8-46-2-37									24-132-4-37
Gdowski, QB	5-74-0-36	15-98-3-19	7-36-0-20									27-208-3-36
Grant, QB		DNP	4-32-0-16									
Haase, QB		DNP	DNP									
Hughes, WB	1-(1)-0-0	1-(2)-0-(2)	0-0-0-0									2-(3)-0-(2)
Johnk, FB		0-0-0-0	1-6-0-6									1-6-0-6
Joseph, QB	5-14-0-17	DNP	1-0-0-0									6-14-0-17
Kleidosty, FB		DNP	DNP									
McCant, QB	1-53-0-53	0-0-0-0	DNP									1-53-0-53
McDuffy, IB	1-1-0-1	0-0-0-0	5-18-0-7									1-1-0-0
Prater, WB		0-0-0-0	DNP									0-0-0-0
Rodgers, IB		INJ	INJ									
Schmidt, FB	1-4-0-4	3-10-0-5	0-0-0-0									4-14-0-5
Soto, FB		DNP	DNP									
Turner, WB	2-21-0-14	3-34-0-23	3-26-0-14									8-81-0-23
L. White, WB		DNP	DNP									

LEGEND: Attempts-Yardage-TD-Long

GAME BY GAME RECEIVING STATISTICS

	NO. ILLINOIS	UTAH	MINNESOTA	OREGON ST.	KANSAS ST.	MISSOURI	OKLA. STATE	IOWA STATE	COLORADO	KANSAS	OKLAHOMA	TOTAL
Bahe, SE	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0									0-0-0-0
Baumert, SE		0-0-0-0	DNP									0-0-0-0
Bell, WB	1-7-0-7	1-2-0-2	5-121-1-34									7-130-1-34
Bobolz, WB		DNP	DNP									
Bostlick, SE		0-0-0-0	DNP									0-0-0-0
D'Alesio, TE		DNP	DNP									
Devall, WB		DNP	DNP									
Dowse, WB	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0									0-0-0-0
Garrett, TE	1-12-1-12	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0									1-12-1-12
Gregory, SE	3-41-0-12	2-25-0-17	1-5-0-5									6-71-0-29
Hughes, WB	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0									0-0-0-0
Kratzenstein, TE	2-39-1-28	0-0-0-0	2-20-0-12									4-59-1-28
Langemeier, TE		DNP	DNP									
Leise, TE	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	DNP									0-0-0-0
Liska, TE		DNP	DNP									
McCoy, SE		DNP	DNP									
Parrella, TE		DNP	DNP									
Prater, WB	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	DNP									0-0-0-0
Turner, WB	1-3-0-3	0-0-0-0	5-89-0-26									6-92-0-26
Washington, TE		0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0									0-0-0-0
L. White, WB		DNP	DNP									

LEGEND: Catches-Yardage-TD-Longest

GAME BY GAME DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

	NO. ILLINOIS	UTAH	MINNESOTA	OREGON ST.	KANSAS ST.	MISSOURI	OKLA. STATE	IOWA STATE	COLORADO	KANSAS	OKLAHOMA	TOTAL
E. Anderson, CB		DNP	DNP									
L. Anderson, DT	2-0-2; 0-0	DNP	1-1-2; 1-8									3-1-4; 1-8
Brown, DT	2-0-2; 0-0	0-0-0; 0-0	DNP									2-0-2; 0-0
Brungardt, DT		0-0-0; 0-0	3-0-3; 1-1									3-0-3; 1-1
Byrd, FS	0-1-1; 0-0	3-1-4; 0-0	3-0-3; 0-0									6-2-8; 0-0
Callendo, LB	1-3-4; 0-0	0-0-0; 0-0	0-0-0; 0-0									1-3-4; 0-0
Camp, LB		DNP	DNP									

GAME BY GAME DEFENSIVE STATISTICS, cont.

	NO. ILLINOIS	UTAH	MINNESOTA	OREGON ST.	KANSAS ST.	MISSOURI	OKLA. STATE	IOWA STATE	COLORADO	KANSAS	OKLAHOMA	TOTAL
Carmer, FS		DNP	DNP									
Cooper, SS	4-1-5; 2-5	8-2-10; 1-2	1-1-2; 0-0									13-4-17; 3-7
Cotton, SS	2-0-2; 1-18	2-1-3; 0-0	0-2-2; 0-0									4-3-7; 1-18
Crippen, CB		0-0-0; 0-0	4-0-4; 0-0									4-0-4; 0-0
Croel, LB	2-1-3; 2-9	3-1-4; 0-0	5-1-6; 2-6									10-3-13; 4-15
Duln, SS		DNP	DNP									
Edgren, NG		DNP	0-1-1; 0-0									
Engelbert, NG	2-2-4; 0-0	1-0-1; 0-0	0-0-0; 0-0									3-2-5; 0-0
Goff, CB		DNP	DNP									
Hagge, LB	2-1-3; 0-0	0-0-0; 0-0	1-0-1; 0-0									3-1-4; 0-0
Hicks, CB		DNP	DNP									
Hill, LB	5-0-5; 2-6	2-0-2; 1-3	1-0-1; 0-0									8-0-8; 3-9
Jobman, LB	1-0-1; 0-0	0-0-0; 0-0	0-2-2; 0-0									1-2-3; 0-0
Krantz, LB		DNP	DNP									
Kurtz, LB		1-0-1; 0-0	DNP									1-0-1; 0-0
Legette, CB		0-0-0; 0-0	2-0-2; 0-0									2-0-2; 0-0
T. Lewis, CB	1-0-1; 0-0	4-1-5; 0-0	1-0-1; 0-0									6-1-7; 0-0
Miller, DT		DNP	0-0-0; 0-0									
Mills, LB	2-1-3; 0-0	2-0-2; 1-1	4-1-5; 2-11									8-2-10; 3-12
Mohnsen, LB	1-0-1; 0-0	DNP	DNP									1-0-1; 0-0
Monarrez, NG		DNP	DNP									
Murray, NG	2-1-3; 1-4	0-0-0; 0-0	1-0-1; 0-0									3-1-4; 1-4
Olson, FS	1-0-1; 0-0	DNP	DNP									1-0-1; 0-0
Petko, LB	5-1-6; 0-0	2-0-2; 0-0	2-1-3; 0-0									9-2-11; 0-0
Pickens, CB	2-0-2; 0-0	5-1-6; 0-0	1-0-1; 0-0									8-1-9; 0-0
Reece, DB	2-1-3; 0-0	0-0-0; 0-0	1-0-1; 0-0									3-1-4; 0-0
Sanders, FS	3-1-4; 0-0	2-1-3; 0-0	0-0-0; 0-0									5-2-7; 0-0
Sims, DT	3-1-4; 1-2	3-0-3; 1-12	2-0-2; 1-7									8-1-9; 2-14
Spitzenberger, LB		DNP	DNP									
Svehla, LB		0-0-0; 0-0	0-1-1; 0-0									0-1-1; 0-0
Thomas, FS	1-0-1; 0-0	0-0-0; 0-0	DNP									1-0-1; 0-0
Tyrance, LB	7-3-10; 1-4	6-3-9; 0-0	4-1-5; 1-2									17-7-24; 2-6
Valladao, DT	2-1-3; 0-0	2-1-3; 1-5	DNP									4-2-6; 1-5
Walker, DT		1-1-2; 1-2	1-0-1; 0-0									2-1-3; 1-2
Wells, DT	1-0-1; 0-0	3-0-3; 3-21	1-0-1; 0-0									5-0-5; 3-21
Wendland, LB		0-0-0; 0-0	DNP									0-0-0; 0-0
D. White, LB		2-0-2; 0-0	4-2-6; 0-0									6-2-8; 0-0
F. White, SS		1-0-1; 0-0	DNP									1-0-1; 0-0
Zacharais, LB	1-0-1; 0-0	DNP	DNP									1-0-1; 0-0

Legend: Unassisted Tackles-Assisted Tackles-Total Tackles; Tackles for Loss-Yardage Lost

NEBRASKA GAME-BY-GAME STARTERS

OFFENSE	NO. ILLINOIS	UTAH	MINNESOTA	OREGON ST.	KANSAS ST.	MISSOURI	OKLA. STATE	IOWA STATE	COLORADO	KANSAS	OKLAHOMA
SE	Gregory	Gregory	Gregory								
LT	Punt	Punt	Punt								
LG	Wanek	Wanek	Wanek								
C	Young	Young	Young								
RG	Roschal	Bobbora	Bobbora								
RT	Glaser	Wiegert	Engstrom								
TE	Kratzenstein	Kratzenstein	Kratzenstein								
QB	Gdowski	Gdowski	Gdowski								
FB	Carpenter	Carpenter	Carpenter								
IB	Clark	Clark	Clark								
WB	Bell	Bell	Bell								

DEFENSE	NO. ILLINOIS	UTAH	MINNESOTA	OREGON ST.	KANSAS ST.	MISSOURI	OKLA. STATE	IOWA STATE	COLORADO	KANSAS	OKLAHOMA
OLB	Mills	Mills	Mills								
LT	Sims	Sims	Sims								
NG	Murray	Murray	Murray								
RT	Wells	Wells	Wells								
OLB	Croel	Croel	Croel								
SLB	Jobman	Petko	Petko								
WLB	Tyrance	Tyrance	Tyrance								
LCB	Pickens	Pickens	Pickens								
RCB	Lewis	Lewis	Lewis								
SS	Cooper	Cooper	Cooper								
FS	Sanders	Sanders	Sanders								

Please note that statistics for the most recent game are compiled in the press box. However, changes may be made throughout the season to reflect official coaches' evaluations after grading film.

Huskers Gaining Momentum As Big 8 Play Approaches

Brad Fuqua, *Grand Island Independent*, Grand Island, Neb.: "Nebraska will finish its pre-Big Eight schedule with a victory over Oregon State. It's too bad that the Huskers aren't playing Oregon. That would be a much better game. Oregon State isn't nearly as good as its cross-state rival. It will be a long day for the Beavers at Memorial Stadium.

"It may be true that the Huskers don't have as good a team as they have had in recent years. Nebraska is still in the process of training inexperienced players for their new starting jobs. If the Huskers can get into their usual groove of overpowering their opponents and avoid injuries, look out.

"Oregon State, simply put, is not good. It is one of the worst teams in college football and ranks right up there with the likes of Kansas State, Rice and SMU. The key will be to eliminate the errors on offense, executing well and playing with intensity. If those three areas can come together, Nebraska will win easily. **Nebraska 48, Oregon State 14.**"

Chuck Green, *Daily Nebraskan*, Lincoln, Neb.: "Of the four teams on the Huskers' non-conference schedule, Oregon State has to be the worst. The Beavers have no quarterback, no rushing game, a less-than-adequate passing game and no defense. After three games, the Huskers should have most

of the bugs worked out, if not all of them.

"I look for the Huskers to win this one big, somewhere around 66-10.

"Look for Nebraska to take the lead right off the bat, scoring on their first three or four drives. This game will probably have some big defensive plays too, like some interceptions with big returns. After Nebraska looks to have the game put away, Oregon State will pull out all of the stops and try things that it wouldn't in other games. This one won't even be close to close."

Jeff Shearer, KDUH-TV, Scottsbluff, Neb.: "The Huskers will put it all together against the visiting Beavers. I don't look for there to be any major defensive letdowns or any multiple-turnover quarters on the part of the Huskers. Ken Clark will explode for 200 yards rushing.

"At this point of the year, the offense and defense are clicking. The first-half scares that surfaced in earlier games won't be a factor this Saturday. **I'll say Nebraska 45, Oregon State 0.** But, keep in mind that they're playing the Fighting Beavers, not the Fighting Irish. The Huskers are still waiting for a Top 20 opponent to provide a real challenge."

John Martinez, *North Platte Telegraph*, North Platte, Neb.: "It's the final non-conference game for the Huskers. Nebraska's young but talent-

ed troops have been gaining valuable experience, but they need another impressive win in order to head into Big Eight play with a full head of steam. So that means they will make the Beavers pay the price.

"The Huskers will take the conference games more seriously since the victories can add up to a trip to Miami and a berth in the Orange Bowl. **Let's say Nebraska 49, Oregon State 7.**"

Mike Fuehrer, *Norfolk Daily News*, Norfolk, Neb.: "Nebraska and Oregon State play for the first time since 1959 when the Huskers squeezed out a 7-6 win over the Beavers. Don't look for this one to be close at all. **I look for Nebraska to win 48-14.**

"Look for Gerry Gdowski to have his fourth consecutive solid game at the helm. Quarterback is the one position that Tom Osborne continues to praise."

Jon Ryan, *Columbus Daily Telegram*, Columbus, Neb.: "If scores and game comparisons are any indication, Oregon State will not be a cakewalk for Nebraska this Saturday.

"Oregon State played well in a season-opening 20-3 win over Stanford. Stanford, by the way, was only a 16-point loser to Arizona, a team that knocked off rival Oklahoma two weeks ago. So, by score comparison, this game could compare to an Oklahoma game for the Huskers. A recent OSU loss to Washington State (41-3) will take some



Shearer



Fuqua



Green



Martinez



Ryan

of the luster off that comparison. After a 4-6-1 record last year, the Beavers feel this is the year for them to climb over the .500 mark and a good showing in Huskerland, win or lose, would be a big boost toward that goal.

"Gdowski has done the things all year to prove he is a vital replacement to Steve Taylor. In fact, since the Huskers' first three wins, there has been little doubt about his leadership and ability. He'll do the job again in this game as **Nebraska wins 42-13.**"

Huskers Illustrated: "Nebraska may have had some problems in their first two home games of the year, but not this one. Oregon State is a team with many questions and few answers.

"What's one thing that Beavers are good at doing? Building dams that don't bend or break. But these Beavers may see a flood of red and white because their dam just won't hold in Lincoln. **We'll say Nebraska 59, Oregon State 7.**"



Stanton

Roger Stanton, Football News, Detroit, Mich.: "Nebraska is in a situation where they don't get motivated for teams that they know they can beat in their sleep. My comparison is, when you play a duffer in golf it just doesn't

bring out the best in your game. But when you play with a touring pro it seems to make you a better player. Nebraska's been playing with duffers lately.

"It's a normal thing, but it also can lead to upsets. However, there is no chance this week with Oregon State for an upset. Even though Oregon State beat a pretty good Stanford team in its opener, that's about all you can say for their program, except that maybe they're playing in a very tough conference.

"Oregon State is just a so-so team. The chances of them beating Nebraska are 1 in 100. I'm guessing Nebraska may still be a little sluggish, **but the Huskers will win 35-10 without any trouble.**

"From what's happened so far, I'm most impressed with Colorado. I'm hoping the Nebraska-Colorado game turns out to be a battle of unbeaten because I would really like to be in Boulder to cover that. Until then, I don't see anybody beating Nebraska." ■

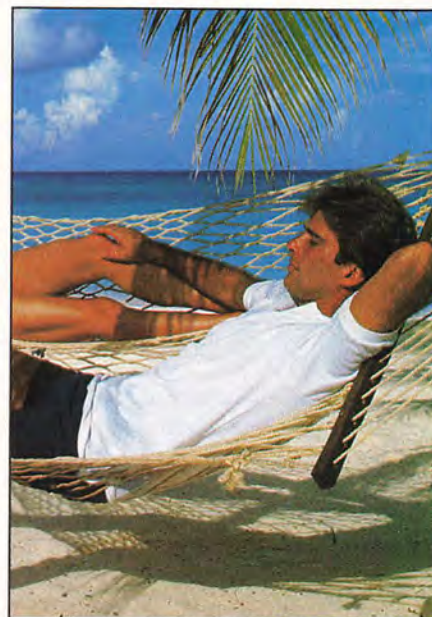
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Oregon State Beavers

The Huskers will have to contend with a pass-oriented Oregon State team that is experiencing somewhat of a resurgence under fifth-year head coach Dave Kragthorpe. In recent seasons, the Beavers have been to the Pacific 10 Conference what Kansas State has been to the Big Eight — frustrated losers.

Oregon State hasn't had a winning record since 1970. In fact, last season's 4-6-1 record was by far the Beavers' best since 1971, when they finished 5-6 under head coach Dee Andros, a former Nebraska assistant.

Since then, the program has suffered through 11 seasons in which it won two games or fewer, including an 0-11 mark under Joe Avezzano in 1980.

Kragthorpe, a former offensive coordinator at Brigham Young University who coached Idaho State to the NCAA II-A championship in 1981, was optimistic going into this season.

"I certainly think we are capable of having a winning season this year, and that's our goal," he said.

"We've got to feel we have a chance to have a winning record."

As if to prove their coach's optimism wasn't misplaced, the Beavers responded by defeating Stanford in their opener. The problem is, their schedule is rated the nation's toughest by *USA Today*. In addition, eight of the 11 games are on the road.

If Oregon State is to finish with more victories than losses against that kind of competition, seniors Pat Chaffey, Pelom McDaniels and Phil Ross must play to their potential, according to Kragthorpe. Those three "are the real key guys for us," he says.

Chaffey is a 6-2, 214-pound fullback, receiving all-conference honorable mention and All-America honorable mention from *The Sporting News*. He led the Beavers in rushing with 450 yards and was second in receiving, catching 45 passes for 540 yards.

Chaffey had 1,015 all-purpose yards, the 11th best single-season total in Oregon State history.

Ross, a 6-4, 221-pound tight end, was



Ross

second-team all-conference, catching 30 passes for 347 yards. During a streak that began his freshman year, Ross caught at least one pass in 29 consecutive games. He's within reach of the school record for career catches.

McDaniels, a 6-3, 260-pound defensive end, ranked third in the Pac-10 in tackles for loss last season and was seventh in quarterback sacks.

He's a Beaver co-captain.

Another senior, 6-5, 269-pound tackle Mike Bailey anchors Oregon State's offensive line.

Nick Schichtle, a 6-3, 198-pound senior, has established himself as the Beavers' starting QB, with Matt Booher, a 6-2, 197-pound junior as the No. 1 back-up.

And the Beavers are definitely pass-oriented. The Oregon State football media guide refers to Kragthorpe's offense as "OSU's Air Express."

Oregon State hasn't won many games during Kragthorpe's tenure as head coach, but the Beavers have shown they're capable of pulling big upsets. In Kragthorpe's first season, they defeated Top 20-ranked Washington in Seattle 21-20, and in 1986, they surprised BYU, also ranked in the Top 20, 10-6 in Provo, Utah.

Strengths: Quality receivers; the pass

rush of McDaniels and noseguard Esera Tuaolo, a 6-3, 217-pound junior; punter Mark Bennett and kicker Troy Busanich.

Weaknesses: Overall depth, which "will probably always be a problem for us at Oregon State," Kragthorpe says, and lack of experience.

Key matchup: The Beavers' pass receivers and Nebraska's young but maturing secondary.

Statistically: Ross is looking to become the No. 1 pass receiver in OSU history. Cornhusker I-back Ken Clark continues to move up on Nebraska's career rushing list.

Players to Watch: Chaffey, Ross, McDaniels and Tuaolo.

Last Week: Oregon State played Boise State.

Next Week: The Beavers play at Fresno State. ■

Nebraska vs. Oregon State

When: Saturday, Sept. 30, 1:30 p.m.

Where: Memorial Stadium, Lincoln.

Media Coverage: Live broadcast on the Nebraska Football Network.

Beaver facts: Oregon State returns 11 starters, including five on offense and six on defense. Coach — Dave Kragthorpe, 56, is in his fifth season with the Beavers, and has a 36-51-1 record as a head coach, including a 12-31-1 mark at Oregon State. School colors — Orange and Black. Nickname — Beavers. Enrollment — 39,597. Conference — Pacific 10. Basic Offense — Pro Set. Basic Defense — 3-4.

The Series: Nebraska leads 7-2-0. The first game between the schools, on Oct. 21, 1916, marked the Cornhuskers' first West Coast trip. Nebraska is 19-14-3, all-time, against Pac-10 teams.

In Control

Coach Tom Osborne: "I thought we really played well tonight. We came up here feeling we'd probably go four quarters with them — maybe just be a touchdown or a 10-point ballgame.

"I think we played a pretty good football team tonight. They seemed to be a well-coached team. They played hard and never gave up.

"Our defense played tremendous football. We were concerned about (tailback Darrell) Thompson. We just controlled the line of scrimmage.

"The kicking game, defense, offense... we played a complete football game.

"We talked about (Mike Grant situation) last week. I don't think right now, with the style of offense we're running, we can afford not to play him.

"Gdowski hurt his shoulder. I don't particularly want to go into next year starting over at quarterback.

"The odds of Gdowski getting through the whole season healthy, with the type of offense we play, are not good.

"Gerry played very well tonight. I thought all of our quarterbacks did.

"I'm very pleased of the effort of our defense. We played a lot of people on defense and we played them early.

"We just lined up knowing that we were doing better. Everybody played hard and just teed off.

Defensive coordinator Charlie McBride: "Even though it was a shut-out, there were still a few mistakes we made that could have been touchdowns.

"Anytime you shut somebody out, it's to the kids' credit. They really played hard. I think they became a football team tonight.

"There are still a lot of things to work on, but most of them are mental. That's due to the young players.

"Last week, we had a hard time lining up all over the place. At least you could find these guys.

"We didn't use a lot of defenses tonight, probably about half of what we planned. We held some things off tonight. We felt if we could handle them in our two basic fronts, we'd stay with them and we did.

"I don't wish Utah on anybody and people better realize that. It really makes it hard on the players, especially the young players. Their heads were spinning. Now, we're back to what we learned."

Offensive line/kickers coach Dan Young: "We were a little concerned with the third game and starting a differ-

ent offensive tackle. That points out the quality and depth that we have in our program. (Steve Engstrom) came in and really contributed.

"That's the kind of thing these kind of kids (walkons) give our program.

"We knew (punter Mike Stigge) had ability, but he really hadn't shown it yet. Tonight, he really did a nice job.

"He just doesn't bang it in the end zone and give them the 20 yards. He does a real good job of placing the ball."■

CORNHUSKER 2-DEEP

OFFENSE

SE	19	Morgan Gregory	5-11	190	sr.
	81	Chip Bahe	5-9	170	sr.
LT	78	Tom Punt	6-8	285	jr.
	76	Brian Boerboom	6-7	285	so.
LG	66	Jim Wanek	6-1	255	jr.
	74	Will Shields	6-2	245	fr.
C	68	Jake Young	6-4	270	sr.
	58	David Edeal	6-2	285	jr.
RG	69	Bill Bobbora	6-3	265	sr.
	64	John Roschal	6-3	280	sr.
RT	61	Erik Wiegert	6-4	270	so.
	63	Steve Engstrom	6-3	285	jr.
TE	85	Monte Kratzstein	6-3	230	sr.
	89	William Washington	6-2	245	fr.
QB	14	Gerry Gdowski	6-0	190	sr.
	2	Mickey Joseph	5-11	175	so.
FB	29	Bryan Carpenter	5-10	205	jr.
	25	Sam Schmidt	6-1	225	sr.
IB	32	Ken Clark	5-10	200	sr.
	23	Leodis Flowers	5-11	200	so.
WB	21	Richard Bell	6-0	205	sr.
	22	Nate Turner	6-2	220	so.
K	44	Gregg Barrios	5-8	180	jr.

DEFENSE

OLB	42	Jeff Mills	6-4	235	sr.
	93	Travis Hill	6-2	230	fr.
LT	56	Joe Sims	6-3	285	jr.
	75	Paul Brungardt	6-7	265	jr.
NG	74	Mike Murray	5-10	240	sr.
	97	Pat Engelbert	6-2	245	so.
RT	91	Kent Wells	6-5	280	sr.
	90	LeAndre Anderson	6-4	245	jr.
OLB	88	Mike Croel	6-3	225	jr.
	96	David White	6-2	225	fr.
SLB	37	Mike Petko	6-2	225	so.
	55	Randall Jobman	6-3	235	sr.
WLB	40	Pat Tyrance	6-2	240	jr.
	49	Chris Caliendo	6-2	240	sr.
LCB	38	Bruce Pickens	5-11	190	jr.
	45	Jon Crippen	5-10	170	jr.
RCB	5	Tahaun Lewis	5-11	175	jr.
	3	Tyrone Legette	5-9	170	so.
SS	17	Reggie Cooper	6-3	205	jr.
	24	Curtis Cotton	6-1	195	so.
FS	26	Marvin Sanders	5-11	190	sr.
	8	Tyrone Byrd	5-11	170	fr.
P	47	Mike Stigge	6-1	190	fr.

BEAVER 2-DEEP

OFFENSE

SE	5	Lloyd Bailey	6-1	172	sr.
	22	Scott Benton	6-1	174	jr.
LT	78	Brad D'Ancona	6-3	292	jr.
	67	Derek Nelons	6-3	269	jr.
LG	69	Matt Irvin	6-3	270	sr.
	51	Dan Blus	6-1	255	so.
C	52	Rob Jack	6-2	268	sr.
	74	John Feinga	6-1	264	fr.
RG	63	Pete Steffen	6-3	282	sr.
	51	Dan Blus	6-2	255	so.
RT	70	Mike Bailey	6-5	270	sr.
	76	Fletcher Keister	6-4	265	fr.
TE	81	Phil Ross	6-4	234	sr.
	89	George Breland	6-4	205	jr.
FL	1	Reggie Hubbard	5-9	162	sr.
	47	Jason Kent	5-11	195	jr.
QB	6	Nick Schichtle	6-3	198	sr.
	8	Matt Booher	6-2	197	jr.
TB	25	Jerrell Waddell	6-1	190	jr.
	29	Reggie Pitchford	5-10	198	jr.
FB	28	Pat Chaffey	6-2	226	sr.
	45	James Jones	6-2	239	fr.
K	16	Troy Bussanich	6-0	185	so.

DEFENSE

LE	95	Mike Maggiore	6-4	263	sr.
	94	Brent Mann	6-3	255	sr.
NT	48	Esera Tualo	6-3	271	jr.
	72	Kurt Munson	6-2	258	sr.
RE	77	Pellom McDaniels	6-3	265	sr.
	86	Greg Juul	6-5	249	so.
REB	54	Martin Billings	6-3	236	jr.
	55	Jody Cabell	6-5	229	so.
SLB	43	Bruce Sanders	6-3	234	sr.
	42	Todd McKinney	6-3	216	jr.
MLB	59	Todd Sahlfeld	6-3	230	so.
	53	Tim Slone	6-2	227	so.
WLB	41	Scott Sanders	6-3	232	sr.
	39	Mike Cunningham	6-2	220	jr.
LC	37	Brian Beck	5-9	170	jr.
	21	Zachariah Davis	5-11	174	fr.
FS	15	Scott Thompson	6-1	192	jr.
	44	Earl Zackery	6-0	193	fr.
SS	7	Larry Vladoic	6-2	200	sr.
	27	Spencer Fields	6-0	182	jr.
RC	17	Billy Hughely	5-10	192	sr.
	14	Brent Huff	5-10	179	so.
P	19	Mark Bennett	5-10	180	jr.

Nebraska has a 50-50 chance of playing in the British Bowl in September next year, according to NU athletic director Bob Devaney. "We have agreed to play and West Virginia has agreed," Devaney said. But the two teams may not play unless the 12th game (extra game added to the original 1990 schedule) is approved by the NCAA. The British Bowl, to be played Sept. 1, 1990 in Manchester, England, does not have the exempt status of the Kickoff Classic that Nebraska has played in twice.

Devaney said there are a few options available including moving the NU-Kansas game to England next year or one of NU's other 1990 road opponents.

I-back Terry Rodgers may be available to play in the Oregon State game. Rodgers, son of former NU Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Rodgers (1972), had reconstructive knee surgery last year after posting his 100-plus yard rushing game the third game of the season. He has been rehabilitating since and may be ready to play, he said.

NU noseguard Mike Murray said he was more than ready to take the starting role this year for the Cornhuskers. "Last year, I could see Lawrence Pete was having a great year. He was playing to his potential and I understood why I wasn't playing more. It was hard to take because I'm here to play, but he played great. Now, I feel I've got to work hard to keep the job this year," Murray said.

Murray said one of his best motivating factors is the knowledge that he is one of the smallest noseguards in Division I football at 5-10, 240 pounds. "The Utah center said something about playing a midget, and that got me pretty mad," he said.

Pat Tyrance said he was surprised that he was thrown into the role of calling defensive signals in the Utah game since he usually does not play in the dime defense that Nebraska used 80 percent of the Utah game. Linebacker Mike Petko, who was the dime linebacker, said he had trouble making the adjustments and that Tyrance bailed out the defense. "Pat did a great job and showed what his experience is worth to the team," Petko said. Tyrance said he didn't go looking for the job but he was glad to help out. "Leroy Etienne helped



Ken Clark

me out that way last year and I was just doing my job this year," Tyrance said. Tyrance is a pre-med student with an almost 4.0 grade-point average. "I expect a lot out of myself so I figure I've still got a long way to go," he said.

Coach Tom Osborne said the most pleasing aspect of the new season has been the transition of quarterback Gerry Gdowski from reserve to starter. Gdowski has been very smooth, calm and confident, Osborne said. "Usually it takes two or three games to break in, but Gerry has taken over and looks like a veteran out there," he said.

"We're still looking for stability on defense, but Gerry has given us that on offense.

Gdowski said he's not the least bit surprised with his progress. "I've been preparing for this role for a long time and I guess I feel I'm ready," he said.

Senior center Jake Young said he has been surprised at the quick improvement in Nebraska's offensive line depth. With injuries to Doug Glaser and his backup Erik Wiegert, the Cornhuskers have counted on a number of new faces. "I think we've held together pretty well," said Young, who missed almost half of the Utah game with heat exhaustion and was replaced by Dave Edeal of Loomis.

Edeal said he has to be in a constant state of readiness, but he wasn't expecting to play as much as he did against Utah. Osborne said Edeal played well.

NU defensive coordinator Charlie McBride said he, as well as the players, were ready to get back to the basics after facing the passing game of Utah and the Wishbone of Northern Illinois. "A lot of people thought those would be easy games, but we have seven new starters on defense and facing that kind of variety has taught us a lot," he said.

Redshirt freshmen outside linebackers David White and Travis Hill have been two of the biggest surprises of the defense. "They play well and they have picked things up pretty quickly considering they didn't play since high school," Osborne said.

Defensive tackle Kenny Walker was pleased he finally got some extensive playing time in the Utah game. "I'm glad because it's been such a long time — almost three years — since I've played that much," he said. Walker is Nebraska's first deaf scholarship player. "We had a little trouble with him jumping offsides when the offensive tackle would duck his head or wiggle, so we've told Kenny to just watch the ball and that should be all he needs because he is so quick," McBride said.

Backup quarterback Mickey Joseph, who was suspended for a game for a drunken driving arrest, apologized to his team, the fans and his family for the problem he said. "I was wrong and it won't happen again," he said.

I-back Ken Clark, who had a knee injury in NU's season-opener, said he wants to play through his hurts this season. "I don't want any excuses and I keep telling Coach (Frank) Solich to let me pull myself out of a game. I'll let them know when I'm hurt. I want to play and I don't want any crutches," Clark said.

Nebraska is still hoping the games with Missouri, Colorado and maybe one other will be televised this season. "This is just one of those years where we have to hope to get those games and get to a bowl game for recruiting and income purposes of television," Osborne said. "In terms of coaching, time outs and all that, I prefer not to be on television." ■

continued from page 13

injuries slowed his progress and he eventually agreed to redshirt, though "it was hard to accept," he says.

Turner learned patience in high school. He didn't move up quickly in Mount Carmel's football program. He didn't earn a position on the varsity until his junior year.

That had nothing to do with ability, however. Mount Carmel, at which Cornhusker noseguard Mike Murray also played, is a perennial football power in Chicago's rugged Catholic League. "They bring you up slow at Mount Carmel, real slow, kind of like here," says Turner.

"Basically, Mount Carmel did the same things we do here."

When Turner reported for fall camp two years ago, "everyone had ideas for him," according to Brown.

Split end? Wingback? I-back? Kick returner? It didn't matter to him.

"You watch Nate and think there's no way he can do some of the things he does athletically," Brown says.

On top of that, "he's enormous."

Things will be different when he and Bell complete their eligibility.

But for now, and another season in Turner's case, Brown can count his blessings. "It's a luxury," he says.

Kratzenstein just shakes his head in amazement when asked about Nebraska's top two wingbacks. "I don't know what it takes," he says, "but I would think they both could be pro players." ■

THE HUSKER WINGBACK TRADITION

NAME	HT.	WT.
* Johnny Rodgers (1970-72)	5-10	171
* Ritch Bahe (1972-74)	5-11	182
* Don Westbrook (1972-74)	5-11	189
Tom Heiser (1974-75)	5-10	185
Curtis Craig (1975-77)	5-10	185
* Kenny Brown (1975-79)	6-0	182
Anthony Steels (1979-81)	5-9	195
* Irving Fryar (1981-83)	6-0	200
* Shane Swanson (1982-84)	5-9	200
Von Sheppard (1985-87)	5-10	185
* Dana Brinson (1985-88)	5-9	170

* Denotes NFL draft pick

ULTIMATE VERSATILITY

Nebraska wingbacks have been versatile over the last 20 years, beginning with Johnny Rodgers, the Heisman Trophy winner in 1972 and, without a doubt, the Cornhuskers' most famous wingback.

Rodgers, despite being one of Nebraska's smaller wingbacks (at 5-10, 171), showed the versatility that has characterized Nebraska's wingbacks, returning kicks and rushing with the ball as well as catching passes.

In the 1973 Orange Bowl game against Notre Dame, Rodgers was moved to I-back and responded with a remarkable performance to lead the

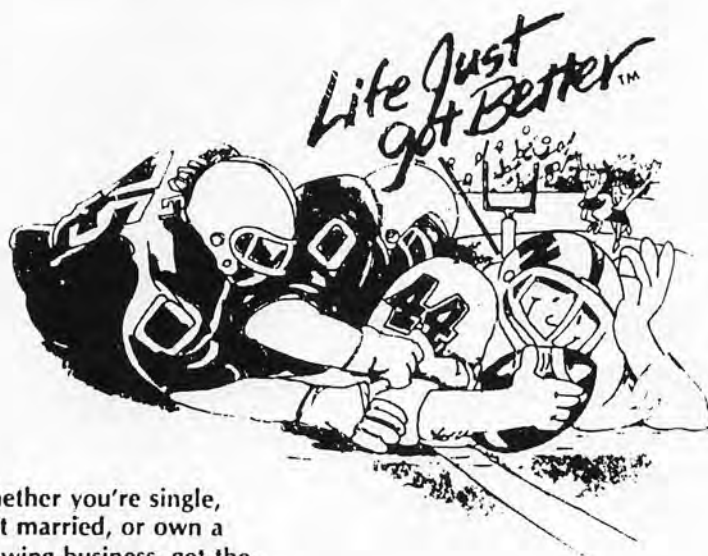
Cornhuskers to a 40-6 victory over the Irish.

- Rodgers carried the ball 15 times for 81 yards to lead all Nebraska rushers.

- He scored three touchdowns against Notre Dame on runs of 8, 4 and 5 yards.

- He caught a sideline pass from quarterback Dave Humm and ran 50 yards through the Fighting Irish to score a fourth touchdown and establish an Orange Bowl single-game record for points and touchdowns.

- He threw a 52-yard touchdown pass to split end Frosty Anderson in the second quarter.



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POW!

The JVs exploded on Bethany, dominating from start to finish.

Article by Dirk Maley

Photos by John Bills



Quarterback Joel Cornwell

It was a drubbing of major proportions.

And the final score would indicate such: 76 points for the Nebraska junior varsity, 0 for the visitors from Bethany (Kan.) College.

It was Nebraska's fourth win in four games against the Bethany JVs. And like the three previous meetings, Nebraska dominated from start to finish.

Previously, Nebraska won 63-0 in 1979, 55-0 in 1987 and 68-0 last year. Certainly, those were all impressive wins.

However, this year's win has to be the most impressive.

Consider that: Nebraska had 429 yards rushing; 470 yards total offense; and 76 points.

Incidentally, the 76 points are the second most points ever recorded by a Nebraska junior varsity.

Bethany was outsized, outmanned and outplayed.

Bethany's troubles began with its opening kickoff, which landed out of bounds. Oddly enough, Bethany's second kick also sailed out of bounds. Finally, on the third kickoff attempt, Bethany was able to keep the ball in play.

However, that proved quite damaging as Nebraska's Bob Wilkerson, a walkon I-back from Clay Center, Neb., took the kickoff and returned it 63 yards, giving Nebraska first-and-10 at the Bethany 35.

At that point, I-back Shane McClanahan, starting for the first time, stole the show.

On three carries, McClanahan, a former standout with Omaha Creighton Prep, gained 32 yards, putting the Huskers in a first-and-goal situation at the 3.

On the next play, McClanahan took the handoff from quarterback Joel Cornwell and ran up the middle to put Nebraska up 6-0. Tim Kehret added the extra point, and the Huskers were on their way.

"Once we got rolling, it was just real-

ly hard to stop us," offered head freshman coach Shane Thorell, whose team improved to 1-0-1.

A crowd of 1,022 fans watched Nebraska take a 42-0 lead at the half.

Three players scored two touchdowns each for Nebraska, including McClanahan, who picked up his second TD following a 29-yard run late in the first quarter.

Reserves Bob Cook, a walkon I-back from Millard South in Omaha, and Jeff Lindquist, a walkon quarterback from Seward, Neb., also were credited with two touchdowns apiece.

Offensively, 13 players contributed to Nebraska's impressive rushing attack: McLanahan (five carries for 84 yards); quarterback Marvin Callies (7-80); Wilkerson (8-54); Cook (7-49); fullback David Fiala (5-40); Cornwell (4-40); fullback Travis Rader (2-18); Lindquist (8-18); fullback Faron Davison (5-17); fullback Brian Dunlavy (1-10); wingback Brian Moore (1-7); I-back Mark Stisser (10-6); and wingback David Seizys (1-6).

McClanahan didn't carry the ball much, but he did exceptionally well when he did. But mostly, he was thankful for the opportunity to start at I-back.

"I've wanted to be a Nebraska Cornhusker for as long as I can remember," offered McClanahan. "All I ever wanted was a chance. It's just so great being able to start so I can show these people here that I can play ball."

In the Bethany blowout, Thorell had an opportunity to play a number of youngsters who didn't play against Snow Junior College in Nebraska's opener on Sept. 2.

Lindquist saw his first action of the 1989 season, as did Austin Wertz, a walkon cornerback from McClave, Colo., who intercepted a pass by Bethany quarterback Lonnie Brooks and returned it 20 yards for a touchdown.

Said Wertz, "I was just reading the quarterback, he turned to throw it and I was right there to intercept it. It was a great feeling being able to get out there on the field."

After the game, Thorell spoke highly of Wertz and other Nebraska players who caught his attention.

Said Thorell, "I thought Austin played as real fine game, and he showed

SCORING SUMMARY

Nebraska JV 76, Bethany College JV 0

Bethany College.....	0	0	0	0	- 0
Nebraska	21	21	20	14	- 76

NU — Shane McClanahan 3 run (Kehret kick).
 NU — Joel Cornwell 17 run (Kehret kick).
 NU — McClanahan 19 run (Kehret kick).
 NU — Bob Cook 8 run (Kehret kick).
 NU — Jeff Lindquist 2 run (Kehret kick).
 NU — Austin Wertz 20 interception return (Kehret kick).
 NU — Brian Dunlavy 10 run (kick failed).
 NU — Cook 10 run (Kehret kick).
 NU — Callies 2 run (Kehret kick).
 NU — Faron Davison 1 run (Kehret kick).
 NU — Lindquist 1 run (Kehret kick).

Attendance: 1,022



Noseguard Jerry Irons (77)

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JV vs. Bethany

some good ability breaking to the ball.

"I was also pleased with a couple of offensive linemen: John Butala (Enfield, Conn.) and Roderick Washington (Tyler, Texas).

"Plus, I thought Daren Williams (linebacker from Chicago) played very well. Daren was accelerating and breaking on the ball very, very well."

Added Thorell, "I think we found that several lower-unit players maybe played a little better than what we thought they could.

"This game really gave our guys a good chance to get playing time and build some confidence. We found that we have a pretty good team, even though we're minus nine or 10 scholarship players. We're starting to become a disciplined team."

Much to Thorell's liking, Nebraska's offense looked much sharper against Bethany than it did against Snow JC.

Still, there's room for improvement prior to Nebraska's Oct. 6 meeting with the Air Force JVs in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The Huskers fumbled four times against Bethany, losing two. To fumble that many times against traditionally strong Air Force and still win could prove difficult.

Also, Nebraska must cut down on penalties, offensive and defensively. Against Bethany, the Huskers were flagged nine times for 87 yards.

Defensively, it's hard to imagine that Nebraska could get any better. The Junior Black Shirts limited the visiting Swedes to 115 yards of total offense. Five Bethany quarterbacks combined to complete just 14 of 39 passes.

The Huskers picked off three passes, the one by Wertz and two others by tackle Bruce Moore, a walkon from York, Neb., and safety Aaron Pieper, a walkon from DeWitt, Neb.

Moore admits that he would never have intercepted his pass had it not been for teammate Jason Licht, a walkon linebacker from Yuma, Colo.

Licht deflected a pass thrown by Brooks, sending the ball high up in the air.

Luckily for Moore, he turned just in time to grab it.

"We defensive tackles don't get many opportunities like that," offered Moore,

who, in addition to the interception, had six tackles, including a team-high three for losses.

The last time Moore intercepted a pass was two years ago, when he was a member of York's JV team. Yet Moore acted as if it was no big deal.

"I just took two steps and pulled it down and then tucked the ball away," said Moore, who at 6-5, is one of Nebraska's tallest players.

Modesty aside, Moore played an outstanding game.

And so did Tyler Zahn, a walkon cornerback from Syracuse, Neb., who also finished with six tackles, including one for a loss of 13 yards.

Four other players had four tackles each — cornerback Greg Salvo (walkon from Omaha), linebacker Mike Heins (walkon from David City, Neb.), strong safety Chris Lambert (walkon from Ventura, Calif.) and Williams.

But Nebraska's dominance against Bethany went way beyond offense and defense.

Indeed, Nebraska won the kicking game as well.

For Bethany punter Brian McReynolds, this game was a nightmare. One time, McReynolds was forced to run for his life after a bad snap from center. The carry netted 2 yards.

Another time, McReynolds had a punt blocked by Nebraska's Allen Pommier (a walkon cornerback from Chicago), which set up a 10-yard TD run by Cook on the very next play.

Then, early in the fourth quarter, McReynolds booted a punt right into Bethany's blocking back, which Nebraska then recovered at the Bethany 14-yard line. Five plays later, Davison scored.

In every area, Nebraska dominated the game.

Only once did Bethany start a drive in Nebraska territory, at the 48 following a Husker fumble.

After taking over on the fumble, though, Bethany ran five plays that netted zero yards. End result: McReynolds punted.

Against Bethany, everything went right for Nebraska and everything went wrong for the visitors.

It was a blowout, wipe-out, men-against-boys knockout. Just another Husker JV day at the office. ■



McClanahan (top, 22) led the JVs in rushing, while Zahn (bottom, 37) led the defensive charge against Bethany.

"BIG DADDY"

Cuts His Own Swath

Joe "Big Daddy" Sims comes from a family noted for excellence. He's continuing the family tradition.

By Paul Hammel

Big Daddy" has some big shoes to fill, and not just on the football field.

Joe Sims, known as "Big Daddy" by his teammates, is inheriting a big job on Nebraska's defense this fall. The 6-foot, 3-inch, 285-pound Sims, a true junior, has taken over the starting left tackle spot from graduated Willie Griffith, an All-Big Eight selection in 1988.

The ghosts of many great defensive linemen, Neil Smith, Danny Noonan, John Dutton and Larry Jacobson, still linger in the trenches, the Black Shirts' first line of defense against the Wishbone- and pass-winging offenses of the world.

Big shoes to fill indeed on a defense that lost six All-Big Eight players. The defensive line was a huge question mark last year until the emergence of Griffith, Lawrence Pete and Kent Wells, the only returning starter in 1989. Sims played a role, too, playing in all 12 games and earning his first letter.

But Sims figures he has an even bigger act to follow, that of his mother and father who have, since Sims was a youngster, given him the stars to shoot for.

His father, John, was an excellent athlete who worked his way up the corporate ladder to the office of vice president in charge of strategic resources for Digital computer company in Boston, where the elder Sims is part of a six-person management team that steers this corporation giant.

His mother, Shirley, is a devout Baptist who turned to the Bible to put behind a series of illnesses in the family, plus a smoking habit.

Sims maintains a close relationship with his parents, calling them weekly at their Sudbury, Mass., home for encouragement. His mother closes every call with a prayer.

Sims said he loves his parents dearly (he wears No. 56, his mother's gradua-

tion year), but it has always been clear that just getting by is not enough in the Sims household. Sims' brothers, John and Kevin, played at college athletics, as a Maine basketball player and Ohio Wesleyan football player, respectively. Now it's Joe's turn to excel.

"Like all fathers, mothers too, we'd

back."

Sims' father is the disciplinarian of the family, a graduate of what Sims calls "the hard school," who keeps his defensive tackle son in line and always working.

"He wouldn't care if I played football or not, he just wants me to try to be the best I can," said Sims. "If I'm going to do it, I might as well do it right."

This summer, John enrolled his son in aerobics classes to give him better flexibility and keep "Big Daddy" — Nebraska's largest defensive player — from becoming a huge daddy.

"My main goal was not to come in way overweight, that's what I thought was hurting me. If I stayed at my real weight, I thought I'd have a good shot at playing a lot," Sims said. "My folks kept me working, kept me busy." As a result, Sims returned to school this fall in the best shape of his life, according to NU defensive coordinator Charlie McBride.

That hard-work attitude carries into schoolwork as well as gridwork. Sims earned a 3.0 (on a scale of 4) grade-point average last spring in his criminal justice studies, his best academic showing ever, but his father still wondered why he couldn't do better, why not a 4.0 average? "He's never pleased," Sims said.

"He's always been like that," he said. "I can remember on Saturday mornings, all the kids would be going out to play and he had me down in the garden picking weeds."

Making the grade set by his parents, Sims admits, was difficult.

"I'd try and it would seem like I could do nothing good," he said. A talk with his mother, whom Sims calls his inspiration, set him straight "about how people want the best out of you and how people want you to do one step better in life.

"If you can keep that kind of attitude,



When Sims' weight is down his productivity goes up.

like our children to be prepared for life," said John Sims. Building quality relationships is what is important now for Joe, said the father. Football and other peripheral activities must be kept in proper perspective. John Sims says he wants his son to give something back to the world besides football: "This is a world of people. You need to know how to live with them and give something



you can succeed," said Sims.

His father said climbing to the top of a corporation, like he did, would be difficult for Joe. It takes some luck and some breaks, said John Sims. "He's got to cut his own swath," said the father. "He can be just as successful, in any field he chooses."

And there's little doubt that Sims is cutting his own swath.

In only his third full season with the Cornhuskers, Sims has a solid lock on the starting job at left tackle ahead of two, two-year lettermen, senior Ray Valadao and junior Paul Brungardt.

Sims plays the run well and has improved his pass rush, according to McBride. "He's not one of the quickest guys in the world but he gets things done, he uses his hands well."

Weight has been a problem for Sims in the past, and is something that Big Daddy, he of tree-trunk legs and mountainous shoulders, will always have to work on, according to McBride, but

Sims came into fall practice in his best shape ever and then promptly cut 12 pounds.

Reducing his body fat — a recently adopted priority for Nebraska's linemen — is a goal, said Sims. He came to Nebraska weighing about 250 pounds and having about 24 percent body fat. He's reduced that to about 18 percent of his current 285 playing weight, and hopes to cut it to 9 or 10 percent.

"It'll just make me a better all-around player. I want to be able to run players down, get some speed up, get to the ball quicker," said Sims.

His hard work is showing, said McBride. "He's grown up and is pushing himself more," McBride said. Last year was, at times, difficult for Sims, he said, because he knew he wouldn't be starting; it was easier to let go.

"Now, this year, he knows that he's got to do it and what kind of shape he's got to be in. He realizes that a lot depends on how he plays and performs,"

McBride said.

Big shoes. Four years ago, however, Sims was an unlikely candidate to fill them.

Husker recruiters were looking at films of a speedy split end playing at Sims' Massachusetts high school, Lincoln-Sudbury, a suburb of Boston. Mike Croel was his name and he was New England's prep sprint champion, a tremendous pass receiver as well as a punt blocker.

Lincoln-Sudbury was a dynasty then, winning 25 straight games and amassing back-to-back undefeated seasons. Luckily, the team's other end, Joe Sims, caught the eyes of recruiters. An all-stater in 1986, Sims had 16 receptions for 220 yards and four touchdowns, as well as playing a rugged defensive tackle.

Several East Coast teams wooed Sims, with hometown Boston College owning the inside track. Sims, however, said his choice was made when Husker assistant coach Frank Solich followed him all the way to a Boston College basketball game to visit with him. "I knew he didn't know his way around but it made me feel that they must really want me," said Sims.

Sims' father encouraged him to attend Boston College so they could maintain their close relationship. Joe, said his father, "struck me with his maturity," by picking Nebraska.

Getting away from the big-city problems of Boston was another factor. "Even staying out of trouble there was a way to get in trouble in Boston. . . unless you stayed in and locked your doors and I didn't want to do that," said Sims. "Boston has a lot of problems, things that can get you away from thinking about football, academics, the things I'm really here for."

Sims and Croel, Nebraska's starting right outside linebacker, were Nebraska's first recruits out of Massachusetts. Sims said it was a big move coming to Nebraska, a state most Bostonians think is somewhere next to Illinois, but Croel made the transition earlier — they could talk about home and what was happening, Sims said. It was what the doctor ordered for any bouts of homesickness.

Sims was recruited as a tight end and then very briefly tried as a 250-pound

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Actual Size



linebacker before finding his home at defensive tackle. "Offense was too repetitive for me, even with all the glory, catching the touchdown passes," he said. "Defense is fun, it's something different every day."

Sims started with the freshman team and was its seventh-leading tackler before playing in all games and lettering last season as a true sophomore.

Although Sims said he might have wished to redshirt to gain another year of eligibility, he's satisfied with his progress as a defensive lineman. The greats, like Smith and Noonan, didn't play until they were juniors or seniors, he said.

"When I look at myself, it looks like I got ahead of the game. I'm not saying I'm in their league, I just came here at the right time," said Sims.

Coming in at his "real weight," Sims said, helped him gain the starting spot, and McBride figures Sims has a bright future if he continues to work hard.

Sims has the same attitude about the defensive line as a whole. "The talent's there to have one of the strongest defensive lines we've ever had," he said. "We don't have the Noonans or the Neil Smiths but we have a lot of heart. In meetings, you can tell there's a lot of love there — if one guy's down, the others pick him up."

It's a good attitude, said Sims, and one that permeates the whole team, even those gaining All-America mention. "They're all striving to make the team better, regardless if they're All-Americans or deserve to be... it's not, 'I had a great day,' it's 'we had a great day' or 'we had a bad day.' That (attitude) is what I like."

Hard work and love. They're qualities embraced by Sims' parents and passed on to their children.

For Big Daddy, it means working hard every week to improve as a defensive lineman and as a student. If all-star honors come, they come, he said. If the Good Lord offers a shot at pro football, Sims said he'd give it a try, though he is preparing himself for other routes to success in life, in law enforcement or maybe even in computers, like his goal-setting father.

Regardless, Big Daddy is ready to fill those big shoes. ■

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... Buddy Ryan

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... Al McGuire

★ "Only two good things ever came out of Italy, and Sophia Loren has both of them."

... Rod Dedeaux

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... Bob Hope

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ALLOW 2-3 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY

By Pat Quinn

Growing Trend Among Offensive Linemen is Growing Bigger

The service recruiting poster says, "We're looking for a few good men," but in the case of the college football recruiter in search of offensive linemen it could read, "We're looking for a few good, big men!"

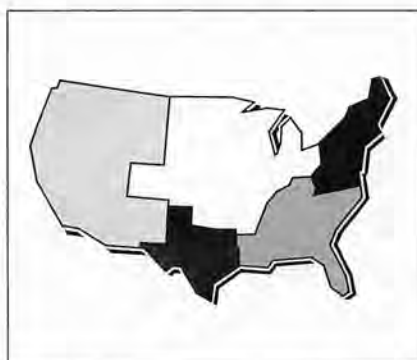
Of course, size isn't everything as Miami's middle-sized, mobile marauders so painfully pointed out last year in the Orange Bowl. But, pro-size heft isn't restricted to the NFL or a few major college programs because, if this year's schoolboy crop has been evaluated to any degree of accuracy, there is an alarming number of dreadnought-class linemen on the table for the choosing.

The Washington Redskins were the first to crowd their offensive and defensive fronts with 290-pounders. This year, Texas A&M has a right guard (Darren Grudt, 330) and right tackle (Matt McCall, 314) stacked beside each other with 305-pound Keith Alex in reserve. Texas has hulking Ken Hackemack (6-9 by 312), and there are probably plenty more than that liberally sprinkled throughout the college ranks.

If there aren't, there soon will be. Approximately 2,500 high school and junior college prospects will accept Division I-A football grants each year. We went through a list of what appears to be the top 2,000 prospects (this includes all positions) in this year's senior class, and although we couldn't always discern between offensive and defensive linemen, we felt we discovered the start of a new wave of genetic giants coming into the college game.

We didn't piddle around with the flotilla of 250-pound prospects and not even with the 260-pound teen-agers who hope to go into college ball. Rather, we started with the 270-pounders, and up, and came onto some startling figures.

There were 135 prospects who weighed this much, or more, and of the 44 line prospects we selected (after



poring over a dozen or so recruiting periodicals and lists), we found no fewer than 20 of these behemoths. Seven on our list weighed 270, or more; six were in the 280-pound class; two at the 290-plus level and a surprising half-dozen, who weighed 300, or more, pounds! All of this at the 18-year-old level.

Although we did not pick the largest prospects listed, you can bet the farm somebody will chance these two giants. The largest individual is Tony Perry of Sarasota (Riverview), Fla., who tips in at an unbelievable 6-8 by 409 pounds! Still, he covers the 40 in a surprising 5.6.

More than 60 pounds back is the runnerup, Christian Maumalanga (6-6, 340, 5.4) of Torrance (Bishop Montgomery), Calif. It's safely said some of these will play, others won't. The secret is to distinguish the difference.

Where do all of these big bodies come from? Surprisingly, this year Alabama, with 14, leads the parade, followed by Ohio (13), California (12), Texas (11) and Florida (11). Not nearly as surprising, the Texans in this weight class have a slight height advantage over the others, averaging slightly more than 6-4½ per youngster.

Of the 31 states surveyed (some weren't populated enough to be included) only a half-dozen didn't have any one this large, and Nebraska was one of

them. It wasn't too unusual Massachusetts was included in the "no 300-pounders class" but it was somewhat of a shock to see Wisconsin, Minnesota, West Virginia and Tennessee in this category.

Inasmuch as coaches don't know how good or even which side of the ball these linemen will play, how difficult is it to determine the quality of the high school offensive line prospect?

Cornhusker off-campus recruiter Jack Pierce, a positively intense and nomadic young man, claims, "It doesn't have to be that hard if you take the time to see film of the prospect and in May observe certain physical qualities first hand. Then, you make can make reasonably accurate judgments.

"Of course, you'll give the taller kid a second look but he's got to be able to run, particularly if you project him to play guard, and he must be flexible in the hips. You can tell about the kids who know what they're doing and can get downfield.

"Milt (Tenopir, Husker offensive line aide) and the other assistants are very good in making judgments in this area."

The tone of Big Eight Conference football has forced some evaluating changes. Pierce adds, "When the Big Eight was so run conscious, you had a tendency to favor the big, strong kid. Now, the offenses are becoming so sophisticated you've got to consider the mobile, intelligent prospect, especially if you plan to make adjustments during the game.

"I guess the prime thing is you have to be intelligent to play in the offensive line. It's tough, dirty, blue-collar work but you have less time and visual perspective to see the total defensive alignment, like a quarterback has (plus, the plays are usually rushed in from the sidelines for the quarterback), and you must make accurate, snap decisions

under rather stressful conditions."

We admit prejudice in selecting our offensive line leaders, particularly in the area of grades. Upgraded requirements on SAT and ACT test scores and grade-point averages, toughens the task of the academically borderline student athlete in gaining entrance to the school of his choice. Doubtlessly, there'll be a premium on recruiting the academically qualified prospect.

In fact, only five on our list are predicted to have academic problems, and information on six additional players has yet to identify whether they'll have problems, too. This leaves 33 on the list who are already qualified or are a cinch to make it. The latter group will get the most attention while the former bunch may see attention wane if they don't qualify before signing date.

Players like Mark Askin (ACT of 24) of Louisville, Ky., and Steve Hardin (SAT of 1,000) of Snohomish, Wash.,

will be popular names. There are several who scored 15 on the ACT before August 1 (when the required minimum was elevated to 18), who are already qualified. But, remember one thing, these are entrance requirements only and don't ensure the student-athlete

If there was anyone close to a unanimous choice, it was Chad Gladden.

will or will not be a successful college student.

Of course, the prospects listed could wind up playing various different positions, such as defense or interchanging between guard and tackle. While we sifted through the piles of lists and figures, we were struck with two

things... first, we question the complete accuracy of all the collected data, and, second and almost contradictorily, it's a rather impressive packet of information which displays extended research.

For example, the prospect data reached into Wyoming to tap Cheyenne guard John Godina, and Terry Connealy of Hyannis, Neb., was discovered, too. Granted, they weren't at the top of each list but each was mentioned by at least two sources.

The most recommended of the tackles were Mike Ciasca of Tucson, Ariz., John Cleavinger of Mechanicsville, Va., Tim Vitito of Conroe, Tex., Brian Demarco of Lorain, Ohio, and Scott Irons of Syracuse, N.Y. The biggest problem was, this list includes two of the five players projected to have grade problems.

Most consistently mentioned of the guards was Jeff Resler of Edmond, Okla., who'll miss the early part of the

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season with corrective knee surgery, Chris Anderson of Downing, Calif., Tony Berti of Thornton, Colo., and James Gregory of St. Louis, Mo. Of course, there are plenty more in each category but any kind of a list starts with one name.

Oddly enough, the Denver area has three players repeatedly mentioned among the nation's best schoolboy linemen. Dolyn Jackson of Denver (Manuel), Tony Boselli of Boulder (Fairview), and Berti. Ironically, at this early stage only one lists Colorado as a leading choice.

If there was a close-to-unanimous choice it was center Chad Gladden of (appropriately) Centre, Ala. At 6-5, 280 pounds, he's already academically qualified, and despite the fact Auburn recruits Cherokee County successfully the Tigers are going to have to stand in line to talk to this young man.

It's dangerous to narrow down any more choices but, have fun going over

our early season list of high school linemen.

OFFENSIVE TACKLES

Tony Boselli 6-7 255 5.1 Boulder (Fairview), CO
 Reuben Brown 6-3 270 5.0 Lynchburg, VA
 David Burdue 6-5 290 5.3 Denison, TX
 Mike Ciasca 6-6 285 5.0 Tucson (Sahuaro), AZ
 John Cleavinger 6-5 280 5.2 Mechanicsville (Davis), VA
 Alcindor Coleman 6-4 300 5.2 New York (Aquinas), NY
 Brian Demarco 6-7 285 5.2 Lorain (King), OH
 Marty Dunbar 6-4 230 4.9 Southlake (Carroll), TX
 Johnny Footman 6-4 330 5.3 Lakeland, FL
 Mark Green 6-7 280 5.0 Warren (De La Salle), MI
 Steve Hardin 6-6 280 5.0 Snohomish, WA
 Joshua Holloway 6-3 265 5.1 Oxon Hill, MD
 Scott Irons 6-6 290 5.1 Syracuse (Henninger), NY
 Jeff Jones 6-7 270 4.9 Killeen, TX
 Todd Mathison 6-5 275 5.0 Weatherford, TX
 Mike McGreevy 6-5 230 5.1 Sioux Falls, SD
 Thomas McKinnon 6-7 310 5.3 Akron (Hoban), OH
 Richard Osborn 6-6 285 5.2 Plant City, FL
 Vincent Pike 6-5 295 5.2 Conroe (Oak Ridge), TX
 John Richard 6-5 250 5.0 Houston (Lamar), TX
 Kenny Robbins 6-5 275 5.1 Barbers Hill, TX
 Tim Vitito 6-4 300 5.2 Conroe (McCullough), TX

OFFENSIVE GUARDS

Chris Anderson 6-5 285 5.0 Downing, CA
 Mark Askin 6-5 270 5.2 Louisville (St. Xavier), KY
 Tony Berti 6-6 230 4.8 Thornton (Skyview), CO
 Terry Connealy 6-5 235 4.9 Hyannis, NE
 Jeff Copps 6-3 230 4.8 San Ramon, CA
 Dave Cuttrell 6-5 260 5.1 El Toro, CA
 Jason Fisk 6-4 235 4.8 Davis, CA
 Travis Frost 6-5 280 5.1 Gulfport, MS
 John Godina 6-4 235 5.0 Cheyenne, WY
 James Gregory 6-4 305 5.1 St. Louis (Sumner), MO
 Dolyn Jackson 6-3 275 4.85 Denver (Manual), CO
 Scott Lennon 6-3 265 5.1 Houston (Mayde Creek), TX
 Mike McGlinn 6-8 235 4.9 Kansas City (Rockhurst), MO
 Jason Milner 6-5 240 4.9 Broken Arrow, OK
 Jeff Resler 6-4 265 4.75 Edmond, OK
 Steve Roberts 6-4 265 5.1 Dalton, GA
 David Winkler 5-11 250 5.1 Mesquite (North), TX

CENTERS

Chad Gladden 6-5 280 5.1 Centre (Cherokee), AL
 Tom Hetherington 6-2 270 5.1 Spring (Westfield), TX
 Trent Hill 6-6 250 5.0 Houston (Madison), TX
 Toby Mills 6-3 246 4.9 Henderson, TX
 Troy Nelson 6-3 240 4.9 Pensacola, FL

(This list was compiled from media recruiting sources across the country.)■

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BACK ROW (left to right) Pam Kohlmeier, Dave Baumann, Rich Jones, Dr. Kris Baack Sponsor/Coach.

FRONT ROW Jamie Schott, Jack Jackson, Sue Lyn German, Steve Harding, Monica Simpson, Debbie Timmerman, Ray Mercer, Debbie Patz, Keith Hippen, Paige Sanford, Brian Hilgenfeld, and Amy Fenster.

NOT PICTURED Jud Jesse, Shawn Smith.

ASK TOM

Q: I know you don't have to interview assistant coaches very often because the staff is so stable, but what kind of questions do you ask in a job interview to find out what a prospective coach is like? Do you ask about Xs and Os? Do you ask about football philosophies, or do you just try to find out what kind of person he is? Scott Seltzer, Omaha, Neb.

A: Usually we will have that prospective staff member get up at the board and talk a little bit about the way he coaches his particular segment of the football team, what drills he uses, what scheme of defense he is used to. We also try to find out about as much as we can about him as a person — how well he relates to young people, what his skills are as a recruiter, what his character is like. We try to look into all aspects of anybody we would add to our staff.

Q: With the early departure of Barry

Sanders and some other juniors last year, have you changed your policies in dealing with agents this year? NFL scouts? Greg Giles, McCook, Neb.

A: We have not really made any significant changes in dealing with agents. We have always asked agents to stay away from our players until they have completed their eligibility. And we tell our players that they are not to deal with agents until they have completed their eligibility.

About NFL scouts, we have curtailed somewhat the amount of time that pro scouts can visit our campus. In the past we had them here every week during the season. This year we are having certain weeks that are open and others that are closed to them. This is primarily due to the fact that we would like to have more control over the access to our films and practices and not have to deal with professional scouts at all times of the year. But this is not related to what

happened with Barry Sanders.

Q: After having them for a couple of months, how do the freshmen look? Keith Iverson, Dallas, Texas.

A: The freshmen look like a good group overall. We have redshirted nine, we have two playing on the varsity, Will Shields and John Reece, and approximately 10 or so scholarship freshmen are playing on the junior varsity team. In addition to that, we have a very fine group of walkon players on the freshman team, which enables us to play junior varsity football because scholarship restrictions no longer allow us to play a freshman football schedule with the small number of scholarship players we're allowed.

If you have questions for Coach Osborne, address them to "Ask Tom Osborne," P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, NE 68501. ■

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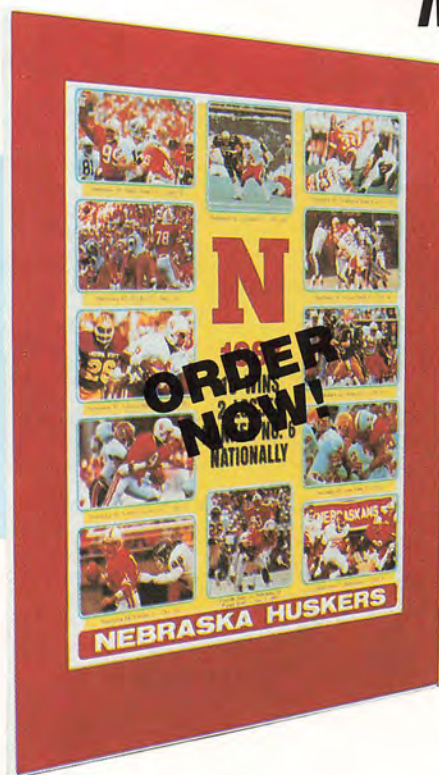
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